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OLYMPICS SPECIAL



16-page supplement - starts page 12

DREAMING OF EUROPE

Saints boss sets his sights on Euro qualification as he outlines his bold plans for the 2012/13 campaign

NIGEL Adkins has laid out a grand vision for Saints on their return to the top flight, declaring he wants the side to challenge for Europe and eventually win the Premier League title.

The club begin their preparations for the new campaign this evening when their pre-season programme kicks-off with the Markus Liebherr Memorial Cup at St Mary's.

Speaking ahead of the tournament, which honours Saints' late owner, Adkins, pictured, made some aston-

ishingly bold predictions, vowing that the team will soon become a major force in English football.

"It's a very positive future ahead," said the manager, who has guided the club to back-to-back promotions following his arrival in September 2010.

"Nicola Cortese (the chairman) set the dream out and the vision to me to be in the Premier League within five years.

"Since he has been here, they've done it in three with back-to-back promotions and we're very, very ambitious.

Story continues: Page 2



TERRY PAINE



**Saints legend's
EXCLUSIVE column**
See page 3

NON-LEAGUE



**SIX pages of non-
league news**
See pages 5-11

CRICKET



**All the latest
Hampshire news**
See pages 32-33



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AMBITIOUS: Saints boss Nigel Adkins.

Adkins is aiming for European spots in 2012/13

From front page.

"What we've got to do is make sure we're ambitious in the Premier League and not just go there and think 'oh, well if we can just get enough points to stay up then that will be successful'.

"We've got to drive on, strive to be the best, and Europe is obviously the goal.

"We can draw inspiration from Norwich and Swansea last season in how they acquitted themselves.

"Southampton Football Club ultimately have got to be in the division to get into Europe and ultimately have the dream of winning the division."

Adkins' words are not exactly in tune with the standard softly-softly approach taken by many newly-promoted clubs. But he is clearly confident Saints can continue to build on the success that they have already enjoyed under his leadership.

And he is not ruling out the team making a charge for the top six straight away.

When asked if Europe was a realistic target this season, the Saints boss added: "Well, that is the vision and the dream you have to strive to keep improving for.

"The training facilities have improved and are improving. The stadium has improved and will keep improving. The standard of the players has improved and will keep improving.

"The ambition is very, very high. You have to be realistic as well, but you've got to reach for the top."



NEW LOOK FOR OUR PREMIER ADVENTURES...

There's no greater indicator that the new season is upon us than the advent of a new kit.

All the pre season hype, the transfers rumours, they're all pretty much generic season by season, the same "experienced footballer looking for a new contract," "young hot-shot looking for a step up," all vying for your attention.

But nothing makes you look forward to the new season more than a new kit.

This season's kit has proved to be controversial, polarising people more than any other kit in recent history.

We all have kits that we either loved or hated with equal measure.

For me, the old Pony tick kit was pretty abysmal, salvaged only by memories of Matthew Le Tissier, and the 1999-2001 kit was pretty shocking as well.

The 2003-2005 kit still gives me nightmares for obvious reasons.

A quick look at all of the kits from the last 20 years tell us one thing, apart from some absolute abominations, they all look pretty much the same.... red and white stripes.

Like many of us, my first reaction at the new kit was horror.

How can we not play in red and white stripes?

That was until I remembered my favourite kit of the last 20 years, the red sash kit, and I realised that tradition only counts if you're successful.

There have been plenty more "traditional" kits that still give me nightmares through association.

The harsh truth is whether or not you actually like the new kit, if you buy kits then you'll eventually buy this one.

It may not be a traditional Saints kit, but what has traditional done for us lately?

If someone had told us three years ago, prior to the Liebherr takeover, we'd be arguing about a bloody football kit I'd have said they were mad.

We came within a whisker of not having a football club. The kit could be blue and we'd have accepted it if meant saving our club.

We're now a Premier League club. Let's just remember that once in a while.

On the subject of having a football club, it would appear that Glasgow Rangers are facing annihilation and a massive drop down the leagues.

It would be hard to not feel sorry for them, had they not avoided paying tens of millions of tax payers' money and then trying to carry on as if nothing had happened.

It should have been Portsmouth, it ended up being Rangers, but a "big club" had to pay the price for their financial recklessness.

A message has to be sent out to all football clubs that they have to run as a business not some toy or hobby.

This is a recession, real people are owed these monies - families, mums and dads. Whilst no one wants a football club to go out of business, no one should want a family business to go under either.

Football has its tribal loyalties but we have to be realistic, clubs like

Rangers and Pompey were reckless and foolish and the tax-paying public shouldn't be picking up the bill for their stupidity.

This is the modern world; perhaps it will take a top ten Premier League club to fold for reality to set in.

In closing, it would seem that the Premier

League this season is going to be as close a season as we've ever seen.

The likes of Arsenal and Spurs seem to be spluttering and losing kudos on a monthly basis

The Newcastle and Liverpools of this world are making positive noises and the promoted teams are making impressive signings to ensure they hit the ground running.

The signings of Guthrie and Pogrebnyak for Reading are positive moves and the record-breaking signing of Jay Rodriguez shows Saints are looking to do more than just finish one place above the relegation zone. It should be a cracking season of football.

The Championship is looking tight and competitive and the Premier League is finally looking as if it could be more than just a four horse race.

And relegation appears as open as it ever has been.

We may look like a cross between 1980s Liverpool and the Swiss national team with our new kit, but things on the pitch are looking healthier than ever.

I, for one, can't wait ...



TURN TO PAGE 12 FOR A 16-PAGE OLYMPICS SPECIAL

Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



WHERE now for Arsenal striker Robin van Persie?

His decision not to renew his contract at the Emirates Stadium doesn't bode well for the club, Arsene Wenger, or the supporters.

He will surely not be leading the line for the club in the upcoming season now.

His meeting with chief executive Ivan Gazidis and manager Wenger failed to convince the Dutch international and PFA player of the year that his future remains with the Gunners.

He may well point to the departure of Gael Clichy and Samir Nasri, whose moves to Manchester City this time last year brought them both a Premier League medal and, along with Cesc Fabregas leaving for Barcelona, ripped apart a team that Wenger was trying to build.

Many believe that Arsenal have become a selling club, something forced on them by a very strict budget.

Wenger's statement that they want to keep van Persie at all costs has fallen on deaf ears.

According to the player, financial terms hadn't been discussed at the meeting, so it must have been the disappointment of failing to win a single trophy in the last seven years that prompted his decision.

Van Persie had a sensational last season, scoring 30 goals in 38 league appearances, and a total of 41 in 53 games.

So, how do you compensate for his absence, if indeed van Persie moves?

It was the Dutch striker's goals that drove Arsenal to a Champions League place, and it is goals that change games and also managerial careers.

Just think and reflect on Manchester City's season and you have to ask would Roberto Mancini, City's manager, still be waving his new five-year contract at the Etihad Stadium if Sergio Aguero's goal three minutes into stoppage time against QPR had been missed?

Would he even still be City manager now?

Goalscorers are essential to any club's success, and when I look back on my career I was blessed with so much good fortune to have some outstanding finishers in front of me.

The first was Derek Reeves, whose 145 league goals in 273 appearances, aligned with George O'Brien's 154 in 244 games, proved instrumental in winning the third division championship in the 1959/60 season.

Derek still holds the club record of 39 league goals in a single season.

It didn't stop there, either.

Martin Chivers was next in line, and his contribution was immense, scoring 96 goals in 174 appearances during his spell with the club, between 1962 and 1968.

He also scored a brilliant 30 goals in 39 games in the 1965/66 season to seal promotion into the first division.

Our survival in the top flight was down to one man – Ron Davies.

As a team, we were struggling to come to terms with the jump in class, but it was because of the Welsh international's 37 goals in 41 league matches – a tally which was to lead the scoring charts that sea-

Worrying times for Arsenal fans



It has been a struggle for the team to win silverware, even with van Persie's devastating finishing, so without him the future at Arsenal looks bleak.

The Gunners, with their passing game, always preferred to play with one out-and-out striker, but just recently we've seen in Europe a change in format.

The Spanish side which won Euro 2012 opted to play without a traditional front man and, to a lesser degree, Barcelona at club level enjoy playing Lionel Messi in deeper roles, where he still finds the net on a regular basis.

There are already certain disciples within the English game who have taken up the mantle and moved away from what might be described as the traditional English way.

Brendan Rodgers, the new Liverpool manager, is one of those who endorses a passing game, having built Swansea into a free-flowing, short-passing side during his time in Wales.

Recent comments from the manager suggest that Andy Carroll may be surplus to requirements at Anfield.

But it seems a little premature for Rodgers to have already made up his mind that the England striker will be allowed to move on.

In defence of Carroll, I never believed that last season he received the kind of service that a player of his stature requires.

And, whatever Rodgers' football philosophy is, in the English game he will still need a prolific scorer if he is to turn Liverpool into the force they once were.

His changes in Liverpool's style of play may reflect on who joins the club in the close-season.

Roma striker Fabio Borini, who Rodgers worked with while he was a coach at Chelsea's youth academy and who he also took on loan at Swansea, is expected to become his first signing.

The indications here again are that Rodgers doesn't relish the old-fashioned style of centre forward that may be proficient in the air, but is lacking touch and feel on the ground.

son, ahead of West Ham and England's Geoff Hurst – that eventually saw us miss the drop by one point.

It was also about this time that a young lad from Orcheston, near Salisbury, began to make a name for himself.

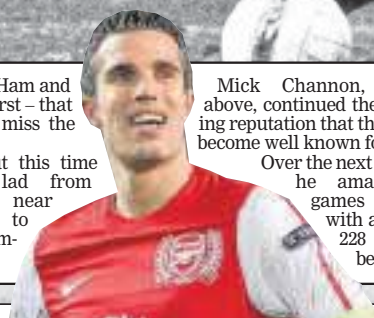
Mick Channon, pictured above, continued the goalscoring reputation that the club had become well known for.

Over the next few years, he amassed 602 goals in total, with a return of 228 goals before play-

ing his last game, versus Arsenal away, on May 15, 1982.

Goalscorers are precious – that's why they cost so much in the transfer market.

Wenger, who has faced many challenges in his time at Arsenal, will have experienced few bigger problems than the one that has landed at his door now.



Adam Rant



This week's big talking points
with **Adam Leitch**

Cycling will never shed its baggage

IT'S hard not to feel a shred of sympathy, and plenty of admiration, for Bradley Wiggins – but he does need to be a bit realistic.

He is at the top of his sport, doing amazing things in the Tour de France, which is brilliant.

Yet, because he is in the sport of cycling, he has to answer questions that have flown his way on Twitter apparently – if you will go there then you will leave yourself open to mentalists – over whether he is taking performance enhancing drugs.

It's unfortunate, and you can perfectly understand how frustrating and upsetting that must be when you have not taken them and have instead just worked really hard for your success.

But he must understand it is a mark of the problems his sport has had.

After everything that has happened it is, sadly, inevitable.

His remarkable tirade, which Adam Rant much admired by the way for its honesty in these days of media blandness, wasn't just about that.

But also about the lack of support he is getting compared to Andy Murray. Again, that's just the sport he chose.

Tennis is a more popular spectator sport than cycling.

Maybe Wiggins can change all that or, maybe, that's just the way of the world, as understandably tough as it is to take.

England are the real deal

ENGLAND'S improvement in one day cricket has been nothing short of breathtaking.

At times they haven't even seemed to be at their very best and have still had enough to absolutely hammer Australia.

The 4-0 series score doesn't flatter England – they destroyed their opponents.

England have been better in pretty much every department.

Whilst it is wonderful for them, there must be a lot of concern in Australia.

For a couple of years it was fine to bemoan the loss of a golden generation of players, possibly the best side ever assembled.

But that will only wash for so long.

They are going to have to be an awful lot better when the Test regulars, who weren't on this tour, come into the side if they are not to be thumped in the Ashes next summer.



FIFA right to investigate Claus

TRULY astonishing claims from Claus Lundekvam this week over spot fixing during his time at Saints.

Adam Rant has known Claus, left, for a long time, as you would expect having covered the club for five years while he was a regular in the side and having ghost written a column for

him down the years too.

What happened to him after football, when he couldn't cope with the void left in his life, was sad, but all credit to him as he battled back from it and got himself clean again.

His comments, though, were quite extraordinary.

He seems to have nothing to gain from making false accusations, but then some other genuinely good guys who played alongside him appear to have no knowledge of something he made out to be widespread.

It's right that FIFA investigate to get to the bottom of this.

He's simply the greatest

ROGER Federer the greatest ever?

Surely there is no argument now.

The Swiss maestro got his hands on a remarkable 17th Grand Slam trophy of an amazing career at Wimbledon, moved back to world number one and, once and for all, must have ended all doubt over his place in the pantheon of tennis legends.

For Adam Rant it was the rankings achievement which received less publicity, but was actually the more stunning.

It's true that very few players win major titles after they turn 30, but even less play consistently enough to be ranked as the best player in the world.

The rankings points are accumulated over a rolling 52-week period, which means you have to have had a very consistent year – not just a fortnight – to get to that level.

What Federer has proved by climbing back is that actually he is not just capable of winning the odd Grand Slam still.

Most thought his raw talent meant he might be able to do that.

But few thought he could ever be consistent enough over such a long period of time to get to world number one again.

That is truly incredible.

Actually, as somebody almost exactly the same age as Federer and not wanting to feel past it yet either, Adam Rant would like to point out that the 1981ers actually won the men's singles, the women's singles, the women's doubles and the men's doubles.

The mixed doubles team were actually born substantially earlier than that.

As for the final itself, and a certain Andy Murray, you have to ask whether the Scot

will ever have a better chance of winning a Grand Slam final.

Federer, of course, was gracious in victory and said he believed Murray would win one – but then he said that on the two previous occasions he beat him in a Grand Slam final too.

That Tim Henman was clutching at straws afterwards, claiming that the fact Murray won a first set in a Grand Slam final – that's now 12 sets lost and one won – is perhaps an indication of how desperate his supporters felt.

Make no mistake, that title was Murray's for the taking.

It was there for him to win.

Had he have won the second set, as really he should have done, then it was very hard to see even the magnificent Federer coming back.

But once Murray lost the second set and the roof closed, there was only going to be one winner.

If there is a debate over

whether Federer is the greatest player of all-time, there can be no debate on his position as the greatest indoor player of all-time.

The question is a genuine one as to whether Murray will actually ever win one Grand Slam, though?

He won't get an easier passage surely – a series of winnable games through to a final where he faces a 30-year-old who makes an incredible number of unforced errors.

Federer, on the other hand, did it the hard way, beating

both Novak Djokovic and Murray.

At 25, time is still on Murray's side at the moment, but Federer is a rare exception in the men's singles game for competing so highly until a ripe old age.

If Murray can do that too then fair play to him, if not then you might start to consider that he might only have a few more years to do it.

And, having made four Grand Slam finals, he has creat-

ed his fair share of opportunities already. The truth is Federer showed the mentality of a great champion.

He attacked relentlessly and, most of all, he believed he was going to do it.

The truth however, which has been painted over with a bit of patriotism, was that, though Federer did play some great stuff, he was there for the taking.

Murray just couldn't put him away when he had the chance, and Federer was never going to squander his opportunity when it came.

That, ultimately, was the difference.

That is why Federer is simply the greatest.



Non-league Football

TASTY BUTTERS!

Three Sholing v Winchester derbies in store

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

SHOLING are guaranteed at least three meetings with Winchester City next season.

With Guy Butters's Sydenhams champions newly promoted to the Southern League, there will be two tasty Division One South & West derbies to look forward to.

The two old Hampshire and Wessex League adversaries have also been drawn together in the FA Trophy and will do preliminary round battle at Winchester's Denplan City Ground on Saturday, September 15 with £2,300 prize money and a first qualifying round trip to Godalming Town or North Leigh up for grabs.

"I texted (Winchester owner) Paul McCarthy as soon as the draw came out," said Sholing boss Dave Diaper, pictured below.

"It's a great local derby and we'll be drumming up support ahead of that one."

"We're trying to get some more away fans behind us next season and a tie like that should be exciting."

Although Sholing have three years of Southern League experience behind them, they are not too far ahead of Winchester when it comes to playing in non-League's senior cup competition.

"Our record since we've been in the Trophy is not exactly brilliant," said Diaper. "We've been knocked out at the first stage every season."

"I remember when we were first in it three years ago, we played North Leigh and we weren't even aware there was prize money at stake! But we've learned a lot since then."

With play-off winners Gosport Borough joining AFC Totton and Bashley in the Southern Premier Division next term, Diaper is doubly pleased to welcome Winchester into the South & West fold. Without them, the Boatmen would have been deprived of a Hampshire derby in the league.

"I'm looking forward to the games against them and I'm pleased for Paul that he's



BIG SHOES TO FILL

Shaw leaves Sutton to join rivals Eastleigh – with Dossie's blessing

PAUL Doswell says he fully understands Wayne Shaw's decision to leave Sutton United and return closer to home with the Us' Blue Square Bet South rivals Eastleigh.

After two-and-a-half years working alongside ex-Spitfires boss Doswell at Gander Green Lane, Totton-based Shaw, pictured, last week went back to his Eastleigh roots as goalkeeping coach/back-up 'keeper for ex-Saint Jack Dovey.

The big man's attitude, both on and off the pitch, made him a firm favourite at Sutton and he will long be remembered for a defiant performance – and a clean sheet – in the play-off semi-final, second leg at Welling in May, standing in for the suspended Kevin Scriven.

"I fully understand why Wayne has made the decision he has," said Compton-based Doswell.

"He found the travelling to and from the club and training was just getting a bit too difficult."

"He lives an extra half-hour further away than the rest of us who come from the Southampton area and it does get to you after a while."

"He asked me if I minded him looking for a club closer to home and I actually got on the phone to Ian Baird at Eastleigh to help sort the move out."

"Wayne's been great for us and I'd like to thank him for his efforts."

"He's a great friend and character and a genuinely nice guy. And the good news is that he's still going to work locally a bit with Kevin (Scriven), so he's not lost to us completely."

Although Shaw's weight sets him apart from the average lean and muscular footballer, Eastleigh boss Baird knows appearances can be deceptive.

"People look at Shawy as a bit of a joke figure, but anyone who has worked or played with him will know that is one thing he is not," he said.

"He's always been a big lad – he was probably 12 stone when he was born! – but for Dossie to stick him in a play-off semi-final shows he had no reservations about him. Shawy's a bright and breezy lad who's always got a smile. It's great to have him around."

Shaw has been joined through the Sutton exit door by ex-Havant & Waterlooville defender Craig Braham-Barrett, who wants to concentrate on his university studies. He left the Hawks in February this year after reported fallings-out with the then management and made 14 appearances for the Us.

Sutton, who are due to entertain Eastleigh in a friendly next Saturday (July 21, 3pm), have signed former AFC Wimbledon defender Gareth Gwillim, ex-Brighton and Crawley midfielder/full back Sam Rents from Gateshead and former Farnborough and Ebbsfleet striker Kezie Ibe from Chelmsford City.

got them back in the Southern League," he said.

"Paul puts his heart and soul into that club and puts his money where his mouth is."

"He's trying to get Winchester back where they belong."

"In Paul's own words, Winchester is the former capital of England and he wants the city to have a team that does well. He's

very determined about it."

"Having Winchester in the Southern League is good for the area and it's heightened a bit of interest locally. It's important for us to have Hampshire derby games and someone to replace Gosport."

"There'll be a lot of banter between us but, as long as the best team wins on the day, that's what it's all about."

"Paul says he won't wish me good luck for the season, he'll just wish

me no injuries."

Sholing have landed home advantage in the FA Cup preliminary round.

They host the winners of the extra preliminary round tie between East Cowes Vics and Verwood Town on August 25. Should they win, they would be at home again to lower-league Bournemouth Poppies, Pewsey Vale, Longwell Green Sports or Melksham Town on September 8.

Non-league News

Nev raids old club
NEW Thatcham Town manager Neville Roach has added four more names to his squad.

The former Eastleigh and Basingstoke Town striker, pictured below, has raided his old club Hartley Wintney for ex-Farnborough and Fleet Town frontman Jermaine Hamilton and Australian forward Dean Peltohaka.



Ex-Slough, Farnborough and Walton & Hersham utility man Lee Riddell has also joined the Waterside Park fold along with frontman Grant Powell, formerly of Basingstoke and Whitchurch United.

Thatcham, a former Sydenhams League club, have been switched from the Evo-Stik South & West to the Evo-Stik Central for the forthcoming season.

Craig's winning start

CRAIG Davis's Fleet Town kicked off their pre-season campaign last Saturday with a 1-0 friendly win against Sydenhams Premier Division outfit New Milton.

A second-half Jamie Thoroughgood goal from a set-piece proved the difference between the sides as the Evo-Stik Southern One Central club prevailed.

Praising the opposition, former Bashley and AFC Totton midfielder Davis, pictured above, said: "New Milton have themselves signed some very good and seasoned players. They played some good stuff and I think they will do well in their league this year."

"However, the quality of our play was superb. Jamie Thoroughgood scored from a delightful set-piece and it was great to see the players put in such a good performance so early in pre-season."



MORE NON-LEAGUE ON PAGES 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 AND 40

Non-league Football

Vanquished Stags tipped for success

ASHLEY Vickers is certain AFC Totton are in for a decent season – even though his Blackfield & Langley side got the better of them 2-1 in Tuesday evening's friendly.

Vickers built up a good relationship with Totton's new boss Steve Riley when they managed Dorchester Town and Bashley respectively.

In those days, Vickers was at the higher grade club and several times helped Riley out by loaning him players from his Blue Square Bet South squad.

Now, with Blackfield sitting two tiers below Totton in the Sydenhams Premier Division, the boot is on the other foot – and Vickers suggests it's payback time!

"I've got a lot of time for Steve Riley and hopefully we can have a positive relationship," said the former Dagenham & Redbridge, Weymouth and Eastleigh defender.

"I loaned him players when I was at Dorchester and hopefully he can repay the favour at some stage," he smiled.

"Steve's a winner and he's got a good side there at Totton.

"The first team played against us in the first half and they're a big, physical outfit who'll do well in the Southern Premier. It's a set-piece league."

For his part, Riley, pictured above, would be only too happy to help Vickers out when he can.

"I did have a few players on loan from him at Bashley and I always think it's good to have a relationship with other managers," he said.

"I was hoping Ashley would play against us on

Tuesday, but he didn't.

"But he's got a very good squad and there are one or two players there that I chatted to before they went to Blackfield.

"It was a tough first encounter for us, which I liked. I was chuffed to bits with the competitiveness of the game.

"We lost, but at this stage you don't worry about results. It's all about getting used to playing matches.

"We played different elevens in each half and the weather was shocking for July, but it's a decent pitch at Blackfield and it was a good opportunity to bed in new players and get to know each other's strengths and weaknesses.

"We stayed out at half-time and did a bit of extra work just to keep the fitness going and Blackfield gave us a hard match.

"But there were some good signs. We kept the ball, put the workrate in and created opportunities. The communication was good with (goalkeeper) Gareth Barfoot getting to know the back four.

"Gilly (Richard Gillespie) turned up late, but went on in the second half and equalised from a great delivery from the left by Murray Holmes, who was in the second eleven last year.

"We then gave away a penalty when (understudy goalkeeper) Ross Casey closed the man down. He didn't make contact but, from the referee's position, it looked as if he had. Ross got a hand to it, but the power took it into the net."



PROMISING SIGNS FOR BOSS VICKERS

Wendy Gee
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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

Blackfield KO Riley's men in pre-season match

BLACKFIELD & Langley boss Ashley Vickers does not read too much into pre-season results.

But beating Southern Premier outfit AFC Totton 2-1 on Tuesday night was not a bad way for his new-look squad to begin the 'getting to know you' build-up to the new Sydenhams Premier campaign.

Blackfield sandwiched goals by Dave Ewen and Tom Settle (penalty) around Richard Gillespie's reply at Gang Warily and a happy Vickers said afterwards: "It was nice to watch.

"The guys gelled well in our first game and I was happy with the fitness levels and the way they applied themselves.

"They've shown great commitment to training since we went back on June 23 and I'm sure that will pay off during the course of the season."

When former Dorchester Town boss Vickers took over the Blackfield reins midway through last term, there was only so much he could do to rectify a campaign that had veered horribly off track.

Instead of mounting the hoped-for title challenge, the Watersiders had been dragged to the brink of the relegation zone, leaving Vickers with his work cut out to restore discipline and eventually guide them to safety.

This season will be different, however. Vickers, pictured below, has overhauled the squad from top to bottom and assembled what he describes as a "group of young, hungry players who are all ever so keen and ambitious to win."

"I've got rid of nearly all last season's squad," he said. "No disrespect to those lads because they did haul us to safety, but things had to change.

"My expectation of player fitness and commitment is far higher now than it was at the end of last season with what I'd inherited.

"We've drawn a line under what went before and, in future, if players can't commit, then I'm not interested.

"But these lads are all willing to work and we're just happy to compete with every team we play against.

"I don't say we're going to pull



RECRUITED: Ryan Long, above (left of picture) and Dave Ewen, right, have joined Blackfield & Langley.

up any trees next season, but if I can embed something here then we might be successful over the next few years."

Simon Evans, an experienced former Dorchester and Rushden & Diamonds goalkeeper, is staying with the club after Vickers "fought tooth and nail" to sign him from Hamworthy United towards the end of 2011/12.

Former Romsey Town striker Ryan Long is also on board, along with younger brother Jake, as are Joe Byrne, Max Crow and Dave Ewen from Bournemouth Poppies.

Defender Ross Gregory has also arrived from Romsey and Vickers has high hopes for athletic, young ex-Eastleigh centre-half Charlie Bailey who featured in 11 league games for Blackfield last term.

Left-back Joe Collins, another ex-Eastleigh man, remains on board and, up front, the



Watersiders have strengthened with Luke Burbidge, who has just banged in 22 Wessex goals for Hamworthy.

Wideman Paul Preston is back at Gang Warily having featured briefly for the Watersiders last season before signing for Sholing and New Milton Town.

And another player on his way back is defender Scott Sampson who, according to Vickers, has chosen the Watersiders over Southern League outfit Sholing.

The former AFC Bournemouth reserve skipper joined Blackfield last summer from Newport IOW before being signed by AFC Totton where back-to-back injuries restricted him to just half a dozen league starts.

"Scott's not going to Sholing, he's coming with us," said Vickers. "Sholing came in for him but I think he felt he'd have to prove himself again and again and he wanted to come to someone who knows his qualities.

"We've sold this club to a lot of players. It's not about money, it's about the fact we're trying to do things properly.

"We've got a group of young, hungry players and with youth comes a cheaper wage structure. All the guys are close wage-wise and they're averagely paid for this league."

Vickers himself is still up for playing but, at the age of 40, the 6ft 3in, no-nonsense centre-back will pick his battles carefully.

"I'll look after my body and make sure I'm fit to play in certain games," he said.

"But that's not to say I don't have faith in the players we've got. Our defenders are all very promising."

CALL NON-LEAGUE REPORTER WENDY GEE ON 023 8042 4483

Non-league Football



DARRELL CLARKE

Clarke excited by Theo capture

THEO Lewis, who scored against Saints as a 16-year-old, has joined Blue Square Bet South outfit Salisbury City.

Lewis, who hails from Oxford, was a schoolboy player at both Chelsea and Reading before joining the Cheltenham Town Centre of Excellence and making a significant impression as part of the youth team. He scored 16 times during the 2007/08 season as a youth player and demonstrated his natural eye for goal in a 1-1 pre-season friendly draw against Saints at Whaddon Road that summer. Lewis's pedigree was evident when he controlled Andy Lindegaard's cross and fired past Saints' replacement

goalkeeper Bartosz Bialkowski in the 84th minute.

He made two League One appearances as a substitute towards the end of 2008/09 and went on to amass 39 first-team appearances before being released by Cheltenham when his contract expired in May this year. Salisbury boss Darrell Clarke confessed himself "absolutely delighted" to have agreed a deal with Lewis, who turns 21 next month.

"We've beaten off a fair bit of competition for his signature," he said. "I was impressed with him as soon as I met him. "At our first meeting he wanted to know

all about the football side of the club – it's refreshing to see that kind of focus and professionalism from such a young lad. "He's got plenty of ability, he knows how to use the ball and he can unlock defences. He is impressive as a footballer. I'm looking forward to him putting a white shirt on and getting out on the pitch."

Salisbury have three home friendlies lined up against Football League opposition – against Reading on Saturday, July 28, Swindon Town on Friday, August 3 and Portsmouth on Saturday, August 11. Entry is £10 adults/concessions, £6 students (with ID), £3 children 11-16, £1 children under-11, £2 stand transfer.

Non-league News

Pike men threat

GOSPORT Borough will be a formidable obstacle for Hampshire Premier League clubs in the Russell Cotes Cup.

Alex Pike's, pictured below, Southern Premier new boys have been drawn at home to QK Southampton in the first round on October 23. The winners of that will travel to the victors of the Locks Heath versus AFC Stoneham tie.

The HPL's other representatives, league champions Liphook United, will host AFC Totton in the second round on November 20.

Cup holders Bemerton Heath Harlequins entertain Sydenhams Premier newcomers AFC Portchester in the first round, while last season's beaten finalists Christchurch must travel to Newport IoW.

Christchurch made amends for their Russell Cotes Cup final disappointment by winning the Sydenhams League Cup.

Priory begin their defence of that trophy with a home tie against Sydenhams Premier rivals Fawley AFC on Tuesday, August 7.

RUSSELL COTES CUP

First round: Newport IoW v Christchurch (Oct 24), Gosport Borough v QK Southampton (Oct 23), Locks Heath v AFC Stoneham (Oct 23), Bemerton Heath Harlequins v AFC Portchester (Oct 22).

Second round: GE Hamble v Lymington Town (Nov 20), Fareham Town v Moneyfields (Nov 20), Liphook Utd v AFC Totton (Nov 20), Locks Heath v AFC Stoneham v Gosport Borough or QK Southampton (Nov 20), Totton & Eling v Hordean (Nov 21), Fleet Town v Blackfield & Langley (Nov 20), US Portsmouth v Bemerton Heath Harlequins or AFC Portchester (Nov 19), Newport IoW or Christchurch v Hythe & Dibden (Nov 20).

SYDENHAMS LEAGUE CUP

First round: Christchurch v Fawley AFC, Downton v Alesford Tn, Petersfield Tn v Whitechurch Utd, Romsey Tn v Pewsey Vale, Verwood Tn v Hamworthy Utd.

Second round: AFC Portchester v Verwood Tn or Hamworthy Utd, Alton Tn v Romsey Tn or Pewsey Vale, Amesbury Tn v Bournemouth Poppies, Andover NS v Stockbridge, Blackfield & Langley v Bemerton HH, Christchurch or Fawley v Hordean, Fareham Town v Hauling Utd, Fleet Spurs v Ringwood Town, GE Hamble v Brockenhurst, Hythe & Dibden v East Cowes Vics, Lavetstock & Ford v Team Solent, Moneyfields v Newport IoW, New Milton Town v Downton or Alesford Town, Petersfield Town v Whitechurch Utd v Lymington Town, Totton & Eling v Tadley Calvea, US Portsmouth v Cowes Sports.

Kinge leads influx

TEAM Solent midfielder/striker Scott Kinge is one of three new signings at Sydenhams One outfit Tadley Calvea.

Former Tadley midfield man Matt Aslett has returned to the north Hampshire club, joining pacy frontman Ed Hall from AFC Aldermaston at Barlows Park.

Kinge is currently injured but, with his keen eye for goal, is expected to be an important player as the season progresses.

TOTTON FA CUP HERO BACKED FOR SUCCESS CLOSER TO HOME

FORMER AFC Totton striker Stefan Brown can handle the step up to the Blue Square Bet South, according to Basingstoke Town boss Jason Bristow.

The 23-year-old still had a year to run on his Totton contract but, having finished his sports development course at Portsmouth University, he wanted to play closer to his Reading home.

He is the second Stags player to have signed for Basingstoke this summer, joining midfielder Nathan Campbell at the Camrose Ground.

And just like Campbell, Bristow, pictured below, believes Brown has got what it takes to adapt to the demands of the Conference South.

"Stefan has got goals in him and, if you have got that, then you can always move up a level," said the Basingstoke boss.

"Playing in a side like ours he should get more than enough opportunity to get goals.

"He is quick, a good athlete and gives us another option up front or out wide. He turned down more money from several other clubs to come here."

As a youngster Brown played in the same Newbury team as Arsenal and England's Theo Walcott, Burnley's former Swindon and Poole hotshot Charlie Austin and Scott Doe, a former Swindon youth defender now with Dagenham & Redbridge.

He joined Totton in May 2010, having top-scored for Thatcham Town the previous season.

Brown scored 14 goals in 41 appearances for the Stags over two seasons and played a key part in their Evo-Stik Southern One South & West title success of 2010/11.

He made history last term by scor-



RECORD BREAKER: Stefan Brown celebrates his quick-fire hat-trick against Bradford Park Avenue.

ing the fastest ever FA Cup hat-trick by a substitute in Totton's 8-1 first round win over Bradford Park Avenue, his heroics earning him the player-of-the-round award and a VIP trip to Wembley for the Cup final.

Brown found the net seven times in the Southern Premier Division last season, despite being mainly used out wide or as a substitute, and scored in the play-off final against Oxford City, which Totton lost 4-2. He added another five goals in the cups.

Although the Stags have not pocketed a transfer fee from Basingstoke, they have thrashed

out terms and conditions including a double sell-on clause should Brown move on.

"Last season Stefan was at university, but he's gone home to Reading now and travelling was a problem for him," Totton chairman Paul Wallace explained.

"We couldn't come to an acceptable compromise, regrettably, so we came to the best conclusion for all parties concerned.

"Stefan signed a new contract for us after his FA Cup exploits last season. We hope he will go on to even better things and we've got an agreement in place with Basingstoke should that happen. We've got sell-on clauses for his next two moves."

New Totton boss Steve Riley said: "I never got the chance to work with Stefan, but I had a chat with him and travelling from Reading was a bit of a burden. He wanted to try and find something more local to benefit him and going to Basingstoke was probably the best option for Stefan."

Brown's signing takes the number of contracted players at Basingstoke to 16, while midfielder Simon Dunn and goalkeeper Chay Morris are set to return on a non-contract basis.

However, Bristow is not done yet and is hoping to bring in another player to provide cover in defence for last season's play-off semi-finals.

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Walker wings in
BRENDON King has injected some much-needed experience into the Weymouth ranks with the acquisition of wing wizard Scott Walker.

The 32-year-old was set to put pen to paper on a one-year deal for the Evo-Stik Southern Premier club this week and the Terras boss cannot wait to work with him.

"Scott has followed Barry McConnell across from Truro City, where he has been for about six or seven years, and there is no doubt he is another very exciting addition for us," he said. "His ability to put over crosses from wide areas is fantastic."

"He also works for Exeter City in the community so he knows what we are trying to do here and understands the way we want to go."

Players wanted

CHRISTCHURCH are looking for new players to enhance their reserve squad ahead of the new Wyvern Combination League season.

The Hurn Bridge outfit play against other reserve teams from clubs higher up the non-League football ladder, including Eastleigh, Bashley, AFC Totton and Gosport Borough.

For further information, contact team manager Ian Proctor on 07956 280832.

Christchurch ladies are also looking for more players. Email ladies@christchurchfc.co.uk or chairman@christchurchfc.co.uk for details.

Bath time for Griffin

EXPERIENCED former Salisbury City striker Charlie Griffin has joined the Whites' Blue Square Bet South rivals Bath City.

The 33-year-old Bath-born frontman, pictured, began his career with Chippenham Town before doing the rounds with Woking, Forest Green, Newport County, Salisbury and Stevenage, helping the latter to promotion to the Football League in 2010. Griffin, who also played in the Football League for Swindon Town and Wycombe Wanderers, returned to Salisbury on loan from Forest Green last season.



DOM BACKS STUDENTS TO MAKE THE GRADE

TEAM Solent are hoping to go one better in the Sydenhams League Division One after last season's third place finish.

The 2011/12 campaign could have been a baptism of fire for the newcomers, but they proved too strong for most of the opposition, falling just short of promotion to the Premier Division, writes GARY PETERS.

Coach Dominic Cunliffe, right, is confident the team can replicate the form which saw them challenge AFC Portchester and champions Verwood Town, before a late season slump in which they won only three of their final eight fixtures.

He said: "People are tipping us for promotion and despite our tough end to the season I think we will be a team. There is no hierarchy in the squad and if we did go up it would be a fantastic achievement."

Cunliffe is also predicting that the core of the squad will remain the same for the forthcoming season, although they might struggle to keep hold of the influential Will Tickle who is currently on trial with Blue Square Bet South club Basingstoke Town.

"Players have indicated that they would like to stay which is good because we don't pay a wage," he said. "Some of the big teams have been sniffing around which is something I

cannot stop. If a player does want to leave to further their career I cannot stop that and I wouldn't have any grumbles."

"We have lost a few of the lads because they have finished their university studies but we have some on trial for pre-season and I believe we are strong."

Of much interest to Solent's supporters will be the club's venture into the FA Carlsberg Vase, which has pitted them against league rivals Whitchurch United in the first qualifying round. The match is sure to get the adrenaline pulsing and if Team Solent can overcome Whitchurch United at home, in what Cunliffe describes as an "even game", they will face either Almondsbury UWE or Bristol Academy – again at home.

"We did cheekily apply for the FA Cup but you have to have played in the FA Vase first," said Cunliffe. "Everyone is looking forward to it and the players are chomping at the bit to play."

"We have a young squad that wants to grow and mature and they always take on board the advice we give them."

The team's recent success has brought in decent crowds with 148 witnessing the 3-1 home win against Petersfield Town, and it is something the coach wants to build on. He said: "We have fantastic facilities, probably some of the best in the league and we as a club would like to see improved attendances."



BASINGSTOKE TOWN TRIAL: Team Solent's Will Tickle, right.

Local FA competition draws for 2012/13

THE FA CUP WITH BUDWEISER

Extra preliminary round, Saturday, August 11 (winners receive £1,000): Bournemouth HH v Hamworthy Utd, Winterbourne Utd v Moneyfields, Hallen v Fawley AFC, Farnham Town v Alresford Town, GE Hamble v Whitchurch Utd, Almondsbury UWE v Petersfield Town, East Cowes Vics v Verwood Town, Downton v Ash Utd, Hayling Utd v Fareham Town, Horndean v Brockenhurst, Fleet Spurs v Totton & Eling, Alton Town v Bradford Town, Ringwood Town v Cadbury Heath, Christchurch v Cowes Sports, Romsey Town v Lymington Town, New Milton Town v Newport (IoW), Blackfield & Langley v AFC Portchester, Bournemouth v Pewsey Vale. Preliminary round, Saturday, August 25 (winners receive £1,750): Fleet Town v Witney Town or Marlow, Cove or Slimbridge v Thatcham Town, Christchurch or Cowes Sports v Farnham Town or Alresford Town, Blackfield & Langley or AFC Portchester v Downton or Ash Utd, Yate Town v Poole Town, GE Hamble or Whitchurch Utd v Fleet Spurs or Totton & Eling, Bournemouth or Pewsey Vale v Longwell Green Sports or Melksham Town, Winterbourne Utd or Moneyfields v New Milton Town or Newport (IoW), Sholing v East Cowes Vics or Verwood Town, Ringwood Town or Cadbury Heath v Almondsbury UWE or Petersfield Town, Hallen or Fawley AFC v Swindon Supermarine, Horndean or Brockenhurst v Romsey Town or Lymington Town, Wootton Bassett Town or Calne Town v Bournemouth or Hamworthy Utd, Wimbome Town v Hayling Utd or Fareham Town, Winchester City v Alton

Town or Bradford Town

First round qualifying round, Saturday, September 8 (winners receive £3,000): Fleet Town or Witney Town or Marlow v Cove or Slimbridge or Thatcham Town, Wimbome Town or Hayling Utd or Fareham Town v Christchurch or Cowes Sports or Farnham Town or Alresford Town, Winterbourne Utd or Moneyfields or New Milton Town or Newport (IoW) v Horndean or Brockenhurst or Romsey Town or Lymington Town, Blackfield & Langley or AFC Portchester or Downton or Ash Utd v Ringwood Town or Cadbury Heath or Almondsbury UWE or Petersfield Town, GE Hamble or Whitchurch United or Fleet Spurs or Totton & Eling v Weymouth, Winchester City or Bradford Town or Alton Town v Yate Town or Poole Town, Hallen or Fawley AFC or Swindon Supermarine v AFC Totton, Wootton Bassett Town or Calne Town or Bournemouth HH or Hamworthy Utd v Highworth Town or Corsham Town or Shortwood United, Sholing or East Cowes Vics or Verwood Town v Bournemouth or Pewsey Vale or Longwell Green Sports or Melksham Town, Bashley v Gosport Borough.

FA CARLSBERG TROPHY

Preliminary round, Saturday, September 15 (winners receive £2,300): Clevedon Town v Wimbome Town, Merthyr Town v Fleet Town, Winchester City v Sholing, Thatcham Town v Tiverton Town, Beaconsfield SYCOB v Poole Town. First qualifying round, Saturday, September 29 (winners receive 2,550): Banbury United v Clevedon Town or Wimbome Town,

Weymouth v Thatcham Town or Tiverton Town, AFC Totton v Bideford, Merthyr Town or Fleet Town v Chalfont St Peter, Slough Town or Hungerford Town v Gosport Borough, Beaconsfield SYCOB or Poole Town v Bashley, Godalming Town or North Leigh v Winchester City or Sholing.

THE FA CARLSBERG VASE

First qualifying round, Saturday, September 1 (winners receive £500): Blackfield & Langley v Pewsey Vale, Verwood Town v Hayling United, Melksham Town v East Cowes Vics, Totton & Eling v Petersfield Town, GE Hamble v Wootton Bassett Town, Downton v Oldland Abbots, Swanton Town v Andover New Street, AFC Portchester v Hythe & Dibden, Team Solent v Whitchurch United, Shrewton United v Cadbury Heath, Cowes Sports v Brockenhurst, Fleet Spurs v Devizes Town, Warrminster Town v Ringwood Town, Laverstock & Ford v Roman Glass St George, New Milton Town v Tadley Calvea, Fareham Town v Amesbury Town.

Second qualifying round, Saturday, September 15 (winners receive £700): Team Solent or Whitchurch United v Almondsbury UWE or Bristol Academy, Fleet Spurs or Devizes Town v Highworth Town or Calne Town, Verwood Town or Hayling United v AFC Portchester or Hythe & Dibden, Blackfield & Langley or Pewsey Vale v Bristol Manor Farm, Corsham Town or Longwell Green Sports or Cowes Sports or Brockenhurst, Horndean v Melksham Town or East Cowes Vics, Westbury Utd v Romsey Town, New Milton

Town or Tadley Calvea v Lymington Town, US Portsmouth v Swanage Town & Herston or Andover New Street, Hamworthy Utd v Fawley AFC, Winterbourne Utd v GE Hamble or Wootton Bassett Town, Fareham Town or Amesbury Town v Alton Town, Warrminster Town or Ringwood Town v Totton & Eling or Petersfield Town, Newport (IoW) v Alresford Town. First round proper, Saturday, October 13 (winners receive £900): Christchurch v Horndean or Melksham Town or East Cowes Vics, Corsham Town or Longwell Green Sports or Cowes Sports or Brockenhurst v Fleet Spurs or Devizes Town or Highworth Town or Calne Town, Moneyfields v Hallen, Hamworthy Utd or Fawley AFC v Bournemouth Heath Harlequins, Winterbourne Utd or GE Hamble or Wootton Bassett Town v Team Solent or Whitchurch United or Almondsbury UWE or Bristol Academy, Shrewton Utd or Cadbury Heath or Laverstock & Ford or Roman Glass St George v Verwood Town or Hayling United or AFC Portchester or Hythe & Dibden, Blackfield & Langley or Pewsey Vale or Bristol Manor Farm v Westbury United or Romsey Town, US Portsmouth or Swanage Town or Herston or Andover New Street v Newport (IoW) or Alresford Town, New Milton Town or Tadley Calvea or Lymington Town or Fareham Town or Amesbury Town or Alton Town, Bradford Town or Downton or Oldland Abbots v Warrminster Town or Ringwood Town or Totton & Eling or Petersfield Town.

THE FA YOUTH CUP

Preliminary round, Week commencing

Monday, September 3: Farnborough v Hartley Wintney, Maidenhead United v Fleet Spurs, Fleet Town v Thame Utd, Bournemouth v AFC Portchester, Salisbury City v Moneyfields, Sholing v Dorchester Town. First qualifying round, Week commencing Monday, September 17: Alton Town v Ardley Utd, Flackwell Heath or Thatcham Town v Farnborough or Hartley Wintney, Basingstoke Town v Reading Town or Sandhurst Town, Chesham United or Windsor v Fleet Town or Thame Utd, Slough Town v Maidenhead Utd or Fleet Spurs, Petersfield Town v Eastleigh, Poole Town v Bournemouth or AFC Portchester, Ringwood Town v Sholing or Dorchester Town, AFC Totton v Hamworthy Utd, Havant & Waterlooville v Salisbury City or Moneyfields, Christchurch v Wimbome Town, Weymouth v Bournemouth Heath Harlequins. Second qualifying round, Week commencing Monday, October 1: Flackwell Heath or Thatcham Town or Farnborough or Hartley Wintney v Alton Town or Ardley United, North Leigh or Didcot Town or Chalfont St Peter v Basingstoke Town or Reading Town or Sandhurst Town, Slough Town or Maidenhead United or Fleet Spurs v Chesham United or Windsor or Fleet Town or Thame Utd, Ringwood Town or Sholing or Dorchester Town v Christchurch or Wimbome Town, Petersfield Town or Eastleigh v Havant & Waterlooville or Salisbury City or Moneyfields, AFC Totton or Hamworthy United v Weymouth or Bournemouth Heath Harlequins, Poole Town or Bournemouth or AFC Portchester v Chippenham Town or Gillingham Town or Sherborne Town.

TURN TO BACK PAGE FOR FULL LIST OF PRE-SEASON GAMES

Non-league Football



GOAL THREAT: Totton & Eling's Craig Feeney, right.

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

GE HAMBLE boast the 'Batman and Robin' partnership of **Musselwhite** and **Jarvis**. **Bemerton Heath Harlequins** have the crack 'SAS' force of **Slade and Sanger**.

Now Kev Dawtry hopes the return of Chris Marwood to Little Testwood Farm means Totton & Eling too will have a dynamic front-line duo capable of terrorising defences in the Sydenhams Premier Division.

By partnering targetman Marwood with exciting teenage prospect Craig Feeney, who top-scored for the Millers with 23 Wessex goals last term, Dawtry is angling for a potent strike combination capable of lifting the club out of mid-table mediocrity.

Having banged in 19 goals in 19 Wessex appearances for T&E last season, Marwood switched camps to Lymington Town a year ago, but the move never really worked out.

He missed the start of the campaign injured and managed just 11 Sydenhams appearances, scoring six goals.

Now Marwood, whose impressive form for the Millers earned him a crack at Southern League football with neighbours AFC Totton in 2010/11, has become the latest player to return to the T&E ranks from Lymington, joining Adam Lowther, Mark Lloyd and Danny Steer back in the fold.

"The season before last Chris scored between 25 and 30 goals for us in all competitions and I'm hoping that if we put him with young Craig Feeney they will be quite potent together up front," said Dawtry.

"Both of them get goals in different ways, so they should work well together."

Move over Batman and Robin, here comes the C-Force ...



RETURN: Chris Marwood, left.

"Last year we played one centre forward and two wingers and I think we could improve on that."

Feeney, 19, ended last season with Gosport Borough, helping them gain promotion to the Southern Premier Division.

But although the ex-Fawley youngster has re-signed for Alex Pike's men, Dawtry is adamant he will be a Millers player next term.

Albeit that Feeney did benefit from playing alongside the likes of

Gosport's Steve Claridge and Justin Bennett, the feeling in the T&E camp is that he still has some learning to do. And the best way to achieve that, insists the boss, would be another season in the Wessex.

"It's noticeable in training that Craig looks stronger and sharper and he's all the better for the Gosport experience," said Dawtry. "But he needs to learn a bit more and he'll be starting here with us next season."

And if, as Dawtry hopes, Totton are able to compete with the Sydenhams big guns next season, there is every likelihood that Feeney will stay for the entire campaign.

"We've got a decent squad and if we do the right things, I wouldn't let Craig go," he said. "You can't predict who's going to win the league because you don't know who people have signed, but I'd like to think we'd finish a lot higher than 11th last season."

"I see no reason for Craig to go anywhere unless we're having a mid-table season. If come March time we're not doing a lot, then we might let him get experience else-

where, but I'm hoping that's not the case.

"We've now got Marwood, Lowther, Lloyd and Steer all back from Lymington and there's a lot more focus in terms of football for this coming season."

"Last year we had no chairman and we were all in it together."

"But now we do have a chairman (Ed Holmes) and the club has sorted itself out behind the scenes. It means the likes of myself and (coach) Jo Tessem can concentrate solely on football rather than worrying if the referee gets a cup of tea or if the gate's open!"

"Andy Tipp is now back at the club as manager of football and we've got (assistant manager) Chris Tona too, so we're well covered on the football side and the attitude of the players is a lot more focused."

The only slight fly in the ointment for T&E is that it looks as if both Marwood and Feeney are unavailable for the first game of the season. Feeney has a holiday booked and Marwood has tickets for the Olympic football tournament.

"We might have to do a Spain and play without a striker!" said Dawtry.

Millers land Steve Mowthorpe – another to follow?

TOTTON & Eling are unsure if ex-Saints academy goalkeeper Steve Mowthorpe will be with them next season – but his dad most certainly will.

Steve Mowthorpe Senior has been recruited as goalkeeping coach at Little Testwood Farm and is already passing on the benefit of his experience to new arrival Tony Harrop from Gosport Borough.

Mowthorpe Junior, pictured below, was a revelation for the Millers last season on loan from Saints.

But, having been released from St Mary's at the end of his scholarship, the 18-year-old is keen to pursue his professional dream elsewhere – or play Conference football at the very least.

With that in mind, the Millers have moved to sign a replacement, bringing back the highly capable Harrop who impressed on loan from Gosport last term.

"Tony played ten or 11 games for us last season and did very, very well until Gosport called him back," explained Millers boss Kev Dawtry.

"He sat on the bench for Gosport, but then I saw him later in the season playing down at Hayling United and asked him if he'd be interested in signing for us."

"One thing Tony did say was that he would like to have some goalkeeping coaching and when I mentioned that to Steve Mowthorpe (Junior) he said 'my dad can do that.'"

"Steve's dad played semi-professionally and he's put on some great sessions here."

"At one stage in training it looked as if the goalkeepers were working harder than the outfield players!"

"Young Steve has also been doing a bit of coaching for us and he may well sign as cover, it just depends who he signs for."

The Millers, meanwhile, have scrapped their reserve side.

Last season they signed up for the inaugural Wyvern Combination League, finishing third to bottom in Division One West.

But Dawtry admitted: "It was of no benefit to us whatsoever in terms of producing players."

"We didn't use any of our reserves in the first team last year and paying for travel to the Isle of Wight etc was a financial burden on a club without much money."

"Until such times as we can finance a reserve side properly, we're going to go with the youth team and sign on a decent sized first-team squad of 20 or 22."

"Even if we get knocked out of every cup in the first round, we've got a minimum of 45 first-team fixtures, so all the players will get games."

With Blackfield & Langley replacing Totton & Eling, the Wyvern One West will again run with 11 teams next season.

Team Solent's addition bumps Division One East up to 12.

WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE

Constitution 2012/13

Premier Division: AFC Portchester, AFC Totton, Bashley, Bemerton Heath Harlequins, Christchurch, Dorchester Town, Eastleigh, Fleet Town, Gosport Borough, Moneyfields, Poole Town, Salisbury City, Sholing, Wimborne Town, Winchester City.
Division One West: Blackfield & Langley, Downton, East Cowes Vics, Fawley AFC, Hythe & Dibden, Laverstock & Ford, Lymington Town, New Milton Town, Ringwood Town, Romsey Town, Verwood Tn.
Division One East: Alesford Town, Alton Tn, Fareham Town, GE Hamble, Hayling Utd, Horndean, Newport IoW, Petersfield Town, Tadley Calvea, Team Solent, US Portsmouth, Whitchurch Utd.

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RESULTS



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R Baker, Southampton, Hants
Mr B Blackman, Allbrook, Hants
Mr J Brown, Southampton, Hants
Mr W Browning, Southampton, Hants
Mrs L Bulman, Southampton, Hants
Mrs E Depoix, Southampton, Hants
Mrs P Field, Southampton, Hants
Mr W Jack, Fareham, Hants

Mrs L Mantle, Southampton, Hants
Ms J Matuszewska, Eastleigh, Hants
Mr A McDonald, Southampton, Hants
Mrs L Rouse, Eastleigh, Hants
Mr J Scheepers, Southampton, Hants
Mrs K Stark, Southampton, Hants
Mr M Tann, Southampton, Hants
Mrs A Taylor, Southampton, Hants
Mr A Taylor, Cowes, I.O.W.
Mr K Wyre, Southampton, Hants

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Daily Echo

Non-league Football

Moses ninth in at Eastleigh – and there's still more to come

Baird Ads another signing

MOSES Ademola became the ninth player to touch down in Eastleigh's summer arrivals' lounge this week.

But manager Ian Baird is still one, or possibly two, players short of his dream squad for next season.

Ideally he would like to make another midfield addition but, in order to take his signings into double figures, he needs to move one or two players on.

Midfielders Danny Smith and Chris Flood were both transfer-listed at the start of the close season but, as yet, there is no sign of either finding a new club.

"We've had some tentative enquiries for Chris and Danny from clubs in lower leagues and I've passed on their numbers to the players but, as yet, nothing has happened," said Baird.

"In my opinion we need one, or possibly two, more signings to complete the squad, but I'm aware of the financial situation and when I spoke to (club owner) Stewart Donald, he said we'd need to get one or maybe two players out."

Ademola, a striker/right winger signed from Blue Square Bet South champions Woking, joins Marvin Williams, Osei Sankofa, Glen Southam, Dale Binns, Jai Reason, Jack Dovey, Craig McAllister and Wayne Shaw in pinning his colours to Eastleigh's promotion-seeking mast.

The 22-year-old, a former Brentford professional and finalist in Sky TV's Football Icon 2, scored 21 goals in 71 league appearances over two-and-a-half seasons with Woking.

"I've very, very pleased as he is a good age with a proven goal scoring record," said Baird. "When we've played against him over the years, he has been a thorn in our side and will be a super addition to the squad."

"I'm fully aware of the expectation

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

for next season – I've been aware of it for months. But Stewart and the board have backed me 100 per cent and given me the tools which are hopefully the right ones for the job.

"The players should gain confidence looking around in training and seeing who's around them and they should be thirsty and very hungry to deliver what we want to achieve."

Eastleigh begin their pre-season games at Poole Town next Thursday (July 19, 7.45pm) before travelling to league rivals Sutton United on Saturday.

Compared to some clubs, it's a late start, but Baird said: "I've deliberately gone for a five-and-a-half to six week pre-season."

"Some clubs have already played games, but I don't get that."

"When I was a player, pre-season was always five weeks because if it's any longer you get bored playing games that don't mean anything."

"These days players don't come back two stone overweight and have to be run hard to get the weight off. We've been back for training three times and had two double sessions, so we've caught up in any case."

"I think we've got everything right, including the quality of the opposition for pre-season."

Eastleigh's first home friendly is a challenging test against League One new boys Crewe Alexandra on Tuesday, July 24 (7.45pm). Prices for that game are £12 adults, £7.50 senior citizens and students, £4 under-16s and free for under-7s.

Trips to Poole's Evo-Stik South & West rivals North Leigh (July 28), Sholing (July 31) and Winchester City (August 4) follow before two more prestige home games against Oxford United (August 7, 7.45pm) and a Reading XI (August 11, 3pm).



EASTLEIGH ARRIVAL: Moses Ademola, right.

Former Saints star Ted coming to Eastleigh

BLUE Square Bet South outfit Eastleigh will follow today's (Saturday's) Family Open Day with an evening with ex-Saints and AFC Bournemouth star Ted McDougall later this month.

The 65-year-old is jetting over from his home in America and will talk about his fascinating career in football which included spells with Manchester United, West Ham and Norwich City and seven Scotland international caps.

McDougall, pictured right, was a prolific goalscorer, banging in 256 goals in 535 League appearances.

He joined Southampton for £50,000 in 1976, scoring an impressive 23 goals in 36 games in his first season, playing alongside Phil Boyer.

McDougall rejoined Bournemouth in 1978 and, in the twilight of his career, had spells with local non-League clubs Salisbury City, Poole Town, AFC Totton and Gosport Borough. He later returned to the English game in 1998 as a scout for Alan Ball's Portsmouth.

McDougall's Eastleigh visit takes place on Thursday, July 26 (8pm) with the £5 entry fee going towards ground improvements at the Silverlake Stadium.

There will be a question and answer session afterwards and food available at the bar.

Eastleigh director John Russell said: "Ted now lives and coaches in Atlanta, Georgia, and is over here for a few weeks. It's a great opportunity to listen to

him and ask questions."

To reserve a place ring Shauna Taylor at Eastleigh FC on 023 8061 3361.

Today's Family Open Day runs from 10am to 2pm at the Silverlake.

Fans can watch the new-look first-team squad in an open training session and have unlimited access to the stadium.

There will be a chance to pose for photos with the Hampshire FA Senior Cup, won by the Spitfires at St Mary's in May,

Eastleigh FC Juniors will be officially launched and there will be a penalty shootout between the Supporters' Club and five members of the first-team squad.

The Spitfires' new Errea home kit will be unveiled and available to purchase in the club shop.

With a large number of local businesses supporting the event,

it promises to be a great day out for the whole family with stalls, live music, a bouncy castle, stilt walkers, jugglers, fire eaters, a bungee run, face painting and lots, lots more.



Non-league News

Stock out to rise

LEWIS Stockford hopes to fall back in love with football after signing for Stuart Ritchie at Havant & Waterlooville.

Having featured in all Portsmouth pre-season games last summer, the 19-year-old midfielder, pictured below, was then loaned out to Salisbury City and Ritchie's old club AFC Totton.

He was released by Pompey at the end of the season, ending an 11-year association with his home town club.



"I fell out of love with football," Stockford confessed.

"What I needed last season to develop was reserve team football and it didn't exist."

"It was a huge step up to playing in the Football League and the stepping stones weren't there."

"But signing for the Hawks will give me the perfect opportunity to show what I am capable of."

"Next season is a big one for me because I want to get back into the professional game."

Gosport Fun Day

GOSPORT Borough fans will get the chance to wear the club colours and play alongside their favourite players at the Boro' Family Fun Day on Sunday, August 5.

Three matches will be played during the course of the afternoon, kicking off with a women's match at 2pm between Gosport Borough Ladies first team and the newly-formed reserve side.

Borough's Wyvern League reserve side will then play the under-18s at 3.30pm before two mixed teams of supporters and first team players take to the field at 5pm for another 30 minutes each way match.

Following the football there will be live music in the clubhouse from 7pm.

Entry is free, although there is a small charge for those wishing to play in the first team/supporters game.

Anyone interested in playing should contact Paul Hook on 07859 912897.

TURN TO BACK PAGE FOR MORE NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Our 542 Olympians

THE British team for the London 2012 Olympics consists of 542 athletes across 26 sports. Here, the Sports Pink lists them all ...

AQUATICS-DIVING

Men:

TOM DALEY - born 21/5/1994, Plymouth. Lives: Plymouth.

PETE WATERFIELD - born 12/3/1981, Walthamstow. Lives: Southampton.

JACK LAUGHER - born 30/1/1995, Harrogate. Lives: Ripon.

CHRIS MEARS - born 7/2/1993, Reading. Lives: Reading.

NICK ROBINSON-BAKER - born 24/6/1984, Exeter. Lives: Sheffield.

Women:

STACIE POWELL - born 18/12/1985, Bristol. Lives: Southampton

MONIQUE GLADDING - born 17/6/1981, Durban (South Africa). Lives: Sheffield.

TONIA COUCH - born 20/5/1989, Plymouth. Lives: Plymouth.

SARAH BARROW - born 22/10/1988, Plymouth. Lives: Leeds.

REBECCA GALLANTREE - born 19/8/1984, Chelmsford. Lives: Leeds.

HANNAH STARLING - born 12/6/1995, Leeds.

ALICIA BLAGG - born 21/10/1996, Wakefield.

AQUATICS-SWIMMING

Men:

ROB BALE - born 19/07/1990, Manchester. Lives: Stirling.

CRAIG BENSON - born 30/04/1994, Livingston. Lives: Edinburgh.

ADAM BROWN - born 16/01/1989, Cambridge. Lives: Hatfield.

SIMON BURNETT - born 14/04/1983, Oxford. Lives: USA.

DAVID CARRY - born 08/10/1981, Aberdeen. Lives: Stockport.

ROSS DAVENPORT - 23/05/1984, Derby. Lives: Loughborough.

DAVID DAVIES - 03/03/1985, Cardiff. Lives: Cardiff.

JAMES DISNEY-MAY - born 04/08/1992, Chertsey. Lives: USA.

DANIEL FOGG - born 24/08/1987, Edmonton. Lives: Loughborough.

CRAIG GIBBONS - born 29/11/1985, High Wycombe. Lives: Aylesbury.

JAMES GODDARD - born 30/03/1983, Seychelles.

ANTONY JAMES - 05/11/1989, born Plymouth. Lives: Stockport.

MICHAEL JAMIESON - 05/08/1988, Glasgow. Lives: Bath.

IEUAN LLOYD - 09/07/1993, Penarth. Lives: Cardiff.

MARCO LOUGHRAN - born 24/03/1989, Wimbledon. Lives: Guildford.

ROBERTO PAVONI - born 22/03/1991, Harold Wood. Lives: Loughborough.

Continued on facing page ...



LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN

Now Fed aims for another SW19 win

ROGER Federer hopes winning Wimbledon for a record-tying seventh time can be the catalyst for the most successful summer of his career.

The legendary Swiss ace headed away for a short holiday this week with wife Mirka and their twin daughters, Myla Rose and Charlene Riva, *writes JOHN SKILBECK.*

But in the next few days he will be hitting the practice courts to prepare for the Olympics.

The US Open follows three weeks after London 2012 and, having banished a two-and-half-year barren run in grand slams, Federer is looking to replenish the trophy cabinet.

Despite having a doubles gold medal - won in Beijing four years ago - Federer has surprisingly not had a podium placing in the singles after three attempts.

He will be back at Wimbledon in Swiss colours later this month aiming to put that right.

And London 2012 entered his mind immediately after finishing off Andy Murray in four sets last weekend.

"At first you think, let's start the Olympics tomorrow," Federer said.

"But then you realise that you need to come down and need to recover.

"My physiotherapist travels with me for 90 days a year.

"I told him that we must make sure everything is possible, so I can play at my best at Wimbledon, the Olympics and the US Open.

"The start has worked out perfectly, and clearly such a victory brings me much motivation and satisfaction."

Now level with his childhood hero Pete Sampras and William Renshaw, whose seven Wimbledon titles came in the 1880s, Federer's mid-season report on the state of his game suggests few prob-

SEVENTH HEAVEN: Roger Federer wins his seventh Wimbledon title last weekend.



lems. He is back to number one in the world rankings for the first time since the 2010 French Open and will have a record-setting 287th week at the top this week.

Asked whether he feels a better player now than he was at 25, an age when he was practically unbeatable, Federer answered: "I hope so. God, I've practised so much that I don't want to be worse five

years later.

"I feel I have a great game. But then again, maybe there were times I had such

"I know how hard it is to pull off those great shots and I know how easy it is to miss, so I'm more aware of these things.

"But I'm so happy I'm at the age I am right now, because I had such a great run and I know there's still more possible.

"To enjoy it right now, it's very different than when I was 20 or 25. I'm at a much more stable place in my life. I wouldn't want anything to

change."

Last weekend's triumph was made all the more enjoyable for Federer by the fact his two-year-old daughters were on hand for the first time to watch him land a grand slam.

There was high praise for Federer from an emotional Murray, who has now lost his first four grand slam finals, three to the man from Basle.

Murray likened Federer to Brazilian football great Pele.

"It's nice to be compared to other sporting greats," Federer said.

"I want to leave the game better off than when I came into this great game, which was already unbelievable with the great rivalries we had: Becker-Edberg, Courier and Agassi and Sampras.

"I drew a lot of inspirations from other great athletes in other sports.

"Maybe (Michael) Jordan, Tiger Woods, Valentino Rossi.

"They inspire me to keep on pushing further, not just being happy with world number one or being happy with a grand slam title, but maybe to reach for more.

"Obviously I have to drive myself. But you sometimes do need to see someone else do it for a long time so that you feel it is actually possible."

To that end, Federer had seen Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic monopolise the grand slams for a disconcertingly extended spell and coming to London wanted his own slice of the action.

Inspired by the two men who were threatening to cut him out of the rivalry at the highest level of the game, in perhaps its greatest era, the man we can now safely call its finest exponent is plainly hungry for more success.

His semi-final victory over Djokovic was as remarkable as it was unexpected. Against Murray he stayed calm amid an early storm, before class and experience told.

An Indian summer? Maybe. It would be a particularly special summer for Federer should he make it a golden one.



LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN

ROGER Federer will again have to beat the best players in the world if he wants to win his first Olympic gold medal in London 2012.

All the top seeds at this year's Wimbledon are returning to SW19 later this month with the exception of American Mardy Fish, the Olympic silver medallist in 2004.

Rafael Nadal will be eager to become the first man to ever retain the Olympic mens tennis gold medal, while Novak Djokovic will be desperate to improve on his bronze medal of four years ago.

There will definitely be a new women's Olympic champion as 2008 champion Elena Dementieva has retired since winning in Beijing.

Andy Murray will, again, carry Great Britain hopes into the men's singles tournament. He is the only British

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SPORTS EDITOR

male in the draw.

Anne Keothavong and Elena Baltacha will represent Great Britain in the women's singles after they were both handed wildcards.

2002 Wimbledon champion Lleyton Hewitt was one of eight men given a wildcard into the singles event by organisers.

Countries are allowed a maximum of four players in the singles event, and Argentina, France, Russia and Spain are the only ones to have a full complement in the men's singles.

Tennis was a part of the first modern Olympic Games in 1896.

The first woman to win an Olympic medal in any sport was tennis player Charlotte Cooper (GBR) at the 1900 Olympics in Paris.

After the 1924 Paris Games, tennis withdrew from the Olympics but returned as demonstration events at Mexico City (1968) and Los Angeles (1984).

It returned as a full medal sport at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Men's winners

1988: Miroslav Mecir (Czech) bt Tim Mayotte (USA)

1992: Marc Rosset (Swiss) bt Jordi Arrese (Spain)

1996: Andre Agassi (USA) bt Sergi Bruguera (Spain)

World's best are returning



SEVEN UP: Roger Federer lifts his latest Wimbledon trophy.

2000: Yevgeniy Kafelnikov (Russia) bt Tommy Haas (Germany)

2004: Nicolas Massu (Chile) bt Mardy Fish (USA)

2008: Rafael Nadal (Spain) bt Fernando Gonzalez, (Chile)

Women's winners

1988: Steffi Graf (Germany) bt Gabriela Sabatini, (Argentina)

1992: Jennifer Capriati (USA) bt Steffi Graf (Germany)

1996: Lindsay Davenport (USA) bt Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain)

2000: Venus Williams (USA) bt Elena Dementieva (Russia)

2004: Justine Henin-Hardenne (Belgium) bt Amelie Mauresmo (France)

2008: Elena Dementieva (Russia) bt Dinara Safina (Russia)

From facing page

ROBBIE RENWICK - born 21/07/1988, Abu Dhabi. Lives: Glasgow.

MICHAEL ROCK - born 13/03/1987, Liverpool. Lives: Stockport.

JOE ROEBUCK - born 05/06/1985, Rotherham. Lives: Loughborough.

LIAM TANCOCK - born 07/05/1985, Exeter. Lives: Loughborough.

GRANT TURNER - born 11/03/1989, Swindon. Lives: Loughborough.

CHRIS WALKER-HEBBORN - born 01/07/1990, Bury St Edmunds. Lives: Bath.

ANDREW WILLIS - born 03/12/1990, Frimley. Lives: Bath.

Women:

REBECCA ADLINGTON - born 17/02/1989, Mansfield. Lives: Nottingham.

SOPHIE ALLEN - born 21/03/1992, Lincoln. Lives: Stockport.

GEORGIA DAVIES - born 11/10/1990, Swansea. Lives: Swansea.

ELLIE FAULKNER - born 05/01/1993, Sheffield. Lives: Sheffield.

ELLEN GANDY - born 15/08/1991, Bromley. Lives: Australia.

FRAN HALSALL - born 12/04/1990, Southport. Lives: Loughborough.

KATE HAYWOOD - born 01/04/1987, Grimsby. Lives: Australia.

JO JACKSON - born 12/09/1986, Northallerton. Lives: Loughborough.

JESSICA LLOYD - born 14/03/1995, Oldham. Lives: Manchester.

JEMMA LOWE - born 31/03/1990, Hartlepool. Lives: Swansea.

CAITLIN MCCLATCHEY - born 28/11/1985, Portsmouth. Lives: Loughborough.

HANNAH MILEY - born 08/08/1989, Swindon. Lives: Garioch.

SIOBHAN-MARIE O'CONNOR - born 29/11/1995, Bath. Lives: Bath.

KERI-ANNE PAYNE - born 09/12/1987, Johannesburg. Lives: Stockport.

STEPHANIE PROUD - born 29/08/1988, Durham. Lives: USA.

LIZZIE SIMMONDS - born 11/01/1991, Beverley. Lives: Loughborough.

AMY SMITH - born 24/07/1987, Kidderminster. Lives: Loughborough.

GEMMA SPOFFORTH - born 17/11/1987, Shoreham-on-Sea. Lives: USA.

STACEY TADD - born 21/02/1989, Bath. Lives: Bath.

REBECCA TURNER - born 01/08/1992, Rotherham. Lives: Sheffield.

AIMEE WILLMOTT - born 26/02/1993, Middlesbrough. Lives: Middlesbrough.

SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING

YVETTE BAKER - born 25/11/1991, Sutton Coldfield. Lives: Birmingham.

KATIE CLARK - born 23/03/1994, Reading. Lives: Reading.

KATIE DAWKINS - born 20/08/1988, Bristol. Lives: Bristol.

OLIVIA FEDERICI - born 13/02/1990, Plymouth. Lives: Aldershot.

JENNIFER KNOBBS - born 19/05/1989, Toronto. Lives: Aldershot.

VICKI LUCKASS - born 11/09/1990, Frimley. Lives: Aldershot.

ASHA RANDALL - born 06/04/1990, Ascot. Lives: Aldershot.

JENNA RANDALL - born 20/09/1988, Ascot. Lives: Aldershot.

KATIE SKELTON - born 05/10/1987, Reading. Lives: Reading.

Continued on page 14...

CONTACT PINK SPORTS EDITOR SIMON CARTER - 02380 424515

From page 13

AQUATICS - WATER POLO

Men:

CRAIG FIGES - born 14/08/1978, Bristol.

MATTHEW HOLLAND - born 22/06/1989, Carshalton, Surrey.

CIARAN JAMES - born 05/07/1991, Bristol.

SEAN KING - born 03/05/1989, West Wickham, Kent.

JOSEPH O'REGAN - born 22/06/1991, Oldham, Lancashire.

ROBERT PARKER - born 04/12/1987, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

ALEXANDER PARSONAGE - born 30/05/1985, Dudley.

GLEN ROBINSON - born 26/01/1989, Kendal, Cumbria.

SEAN RYDER - born 18/06/1987, Nottingham.

ADAM SCHOFIELD - born 24/05/1985, Leeds.

EDWARD SCOTT - born 28/05/1988, Bolton.

JAKE VINCENT - born 24/06/1989, Solihull, nr Birmingham.

JACK WALLER - born 06/10/1989, Welwyn Garden City.

Women:

FRANCESCA CLAYTON - born 07/01/1990, Nottingham.

LISA GIBSON - born 12/08/1989, Chichester, Manchester.

CIARA GIBSON-BYRNE - born 03/12/1992, Barcelona, Spain.

REBECCA KERSHAW - born 11/08/1990, Morecambe, Lancashire.

FRANCES LEIGHTON - born 30/03/1982, Rotherham, South Yorkshire.

FIONA MCCANN - born 13/05/1987, Chester, Cheshire.

ROSEMARY MORRIS - born 31/01/1986, Birmingham.

HAZEL MUSGROVE - born 06/02/1989, Warrington, Cheshire.

ROBYN NICHOLLS - born 08/05/1990, Bolton.

ALEXANDRA RUTLIDGE - born 12/11/1988, Carnforth, Lancashire.

FRANCESCA SNELL - born 28/03/1987, Auckland, New Zealand.

CHLOE WILCOX - born 20/12/1986, Penrith, Cumbria.

ANGELA WINSTANLEY-SMITH - born 05/08/1985, South Shields, Tyne and Wear.

ARCHERY

Men:

LARRY GODFREY - born 09/05/1976, Bristol. Lives: Bristol.

SIMON TERRY - born 27/03/1974, Stirling. Lives: Grantham.

ALAN WILLS - born 03/08/1981, Peterlee. Lives: Frizington, Cumbria.

Women:

NAOMI FOLKARD - born 18/09/1983, Leamington Spa. Lives: Kidderminster.

AMY OLIVER - born 10/06/1987, Mexborough. Lives: Mexborough.

ALISON WILLIAMSON - born 03/10/1971, Melton Mowbray. Lives: Stafford.

Continued on facing page...



LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN

THE Olympics are an experience that you will cherish for the rest of your life.

Those are the words of Hampshire's Harry Jackson – and he is a man who should know.

The 71-year-old track cyclist is a veteran of two Olympic Games, having competed at Tokyo 1964 and Mexico City 1968.

Jackson, who has lived in Fareham since he was five-years-old, is also a Commonwealth Games medallist, having won individual pursuit bronze in Perth in 1962. For over 30 years now, he has coached cycling at the Calshot Activities Centre.

This summer, his sharp eyes will be cast over another velodrome – the brand new one in London's sprawling Olympic Park, where Great Britain's current track stars will be in action.

"It's an experience that you cherish for the rest of your life," Jackson said of the opportunity to compete for your country at the Games.

"I took a lot of pride in it." Jackson will be attending the track cycling at London 2012, having been offered the chance, as a former Olympian, to buy two tickets.

And he will watch a British unit that has developed into the sport's modern day superpower.

"It's a very good team," he said. "If they're not top of the cycling medal board I will be surprised."

Gordon Simpson

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SPORTS REPORTER

With 44 years having now passed since Jackson donned the British colours at an Olympics, he admits that the sport has moved on vastly.

"It's a professional organisation now," he said. "The change has been both in the management and the amount of money that's available."

"It must be for at least ten years now that none of the top riders have had to go to work."

"People like Bradley Wiggins and Mark Cavendish don't need money from the lottery funding any more."

"But it certainly meant that years ago they didn't have to work. They were given enough money that they didn't have to have a job."

Jackson was not in such a position, though. He had to combine his love of cycling with work.

A civil engineer by profession, he started off as an articled pupil to the borough engineer in Southampton.

"I rode all the time to and from work, and right through my cycle racing career and beyond," explained Jackson, who went on to retire as the chief engineer for the city council.

"Looking back now, that training – morning and evening – which I didn't count as training, was actually a superb basis."

"The ride to work was always intense, to get there on time, and of course it's hilly the old road from Fareham to Southampton."

Having taken up cycling in his early teens, it became clear Jackson had a natural talent for the sport.

"I don't know what it was, but it fascinated me," he said. "I found that I could ride long distances, and ride quickly, quite easily. It didn't come as a hard effort to me."

Harry: I trained too much for the Olympics!



I rode all the time to and from work, right through my cycle racing career and beyond

PAST AND PRESENT: Harry Jackson with up and coming cyclists Andy Hargroves, left, and Jon Dibben

Jackson's international cycling career began in 1961, a year before he was picked to travel to Australia for the Commonwealth Games.

A 21-year-old Jackson secured a bronze in the individual pursuit, but it was not the result he wanted.

"In retrospect it was a bit disappointing," he said. "I did actually underperform."

"I had actually over-trained."

"Way back in those days, there were none of the modern gizmos like heart monitors."

"So when you felt you weren't going very well, the natural instinct was to go out and try harder, whereas what really should have happened is you should have had a rest, and I think I trained too hard."

Further disappointment was to follow two years later, at the Tokyo Olympics, this time in the team pursuit.

"Unfortunately, Hughie Porter, who was certainly our strongest rider, had flu very badly in Japan and couldn't compete," recalled Jackson. "Then one of the riders touched a wheel and crashed, so in

SAINTS STAR URGED TO SEIZE GB CHANCE - SEE PAGE 26



LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN

Youngsters aiming to follow in Harry's footsteps in Rio ...

HAMPSHIRE cyclists Andy Hargroves and Jon Dibben are hoping to follow in Harry Jackson's footsteps by competing for Great Britain at an Olympic Games, writes **JACK CLARKE**.

The duo are among the top track and road riders at youth level in the UK, and both are targeting Rio 2016.

Totton's Dibben is already a member of the Junior British Cycling Olympic development programme.

The 18-year-old said: "2016 is my personal target, and to have a gold medal around my neck."

In order to achieve his goal, Dibben is aiming to continue progressing through the talent programme.

"The programme is constantly keeping us improving," he said.

"We attend many training camps. In fact, we have just come back from a challenging but inspirational one."

"I have a great coach, Matt Winston, who is the ODP coach

for everyone at GB, so he sees the current GB squad in Manchester all the time."

Dibben added: "Everyone who cycles wants to be on this GB programme."

"Thankfully, I am one of the lucky seven lads who are on at the moment."

"I feel extremely privileged". Dibben, who has already represented Great Britain in the European Under-23 Track Championships in Portugal this year, fell in love with cycling at Calshot Activities Centre.

"What made it great was the track at Calshot is 100m shorter, so everything was quicker, faster and more exciting," he said.

"I am a real adrenaline junkie, so it was the speed at which I travelled around Calshot that gripped me."

Hargroves is a Marchwood-based road and cyclo-cross rider, who is also hoping to also realise the Olympic dream in four years' time.

He grew up with the sport, as

his family own a chain of bike shops up and down the UK.

"I suppose I just fell for the sport as I was constantly around bikes all day," he said.

"Then four years ago I started cycling and haven't looked back since."

Hargroves' achievements include a bronze at the Junior Madison Championships in 2010.

He rates current men's individual pursuit Olympic champion Bradley Wiggins as one of his main inspirations and role models.

"Wiggins has done everything really, from converting himself to riding the road to winning an Olympic gold on the track," said Hargroves. "It is really nice to see a rider being able to be an all-rounder doing everything so successfully."

Hargroves admits representing Great Britain means so much to him.

"Putting on the GB kit just makes everything so worth it," he said.

There was a big black cloud over Mexico City, with lightning across it ... it was fantastic

the qualifying round we crashed and finished ninth.

"It was all a bit of a disappointment, particularly after the world championships, in Paris, which had been in the August, and the Olympic Games were in October."

"We had been fourth in the world championships and we had stayed together and trained together and

we definitely thought we had a fighting chance of a medal."

"Then, what with Hughie not being well and the crash in the qualifying round, it took the gloss off it."

Four years later, Jackson would have another shot at the Olympics, but Mexico City proved a struggle for the British team.

"Thinking back to '68, we just

weren't good enough," he said.

"It was at a time when a lot of the countries that were big in cycling were really big in cycling."

"We were still very amateur. All the riders were amateur and I think that we just didn't have the legs to compete."

"It was disappointing again. We didn't qualify. I think we came 13th

"It was the time when the Eastern Bloc countries were still pouring a lot of money into sport, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland."

"Most of the Iron Curtain country riders were in the armed forces, but they never put a uniform on or carried a rifle."

"They were sportsmen through and through."

But, like Tokyo, Jackson retains some fantastic memories of his time in Mexico.

"It was interesting," he said. "We always felt as cyclists we were quite privileged, because we would ride out of the village on our road bikes and see the swimmers stood at the bus stop waiting for the bus."

"All they would see of whatever city they were in would be the bus ride from the village to the swimming pool and back."

"In Mexico, the cycle track was about 18 miles from the village and we used to just ride across to the track."

"So we would ride through Mexico City and follow our noses. We'd find our way there one way or another."

"We had a map, but you just used your sense of direction."

"Mexico City, although it's at 7,500 feet, it's in a hollow. There's mountains all around it."

"We went out after the competition for a longish ride one day, and climbed up over the hills, which are about 10,500 feet to get out."

"When we came back in over the ridge, there was a big black cloud over Mexico City below us, with lightning going across it."

"It's one of the most fantastic natural phenomena I've seen."

"We sat at the side of the road in the sunshine and watched it, then it just melted away."

Jackson's international career soon dissipated too, taking a break for a year in 1970, when he got married, before mainly racing locally until 1974.

He has been a stalwart of the Hampshire cycling circuit throughout his life, coaching at Calshot since its track opened in the early '70s.

"I don't regard it as work," said Jackson, smiling. "Apart from the year they were refurbishing the centre (1996/97), I've instructed evening coaching sessions one day a week through the winter."

"It's very enjoyable. You keep abreast of what's going on locally with riders."

And Jackson has come across plenty of talented young cyclists in his time at Calshot.

"People like (double world champion and current Team GB member) Dani King she's been here, but she's grown out of coming to Calshot," he said.

"The only notable rider that was grass roots born here was a guy from Chandlers Ford, Shaun Wallace. He came with his school when he was 12 or 13 and decided cycling was his sport, and he won world championship and Olympic medals on the track."

"But he is the only rider I know of where Calshot was the catalyst."

"But many of our international riders have, at some stage, come to Calshot."

Wallace, born in Christchurch in Dorset, rode at two summer Olympics - Los Angeles in 1984 and again in America in Atlanta 12 years later.

From facing page

ATHLETICS

Men:

ADAM GEMILI - 100m and 4 x 100m, born 01/01/1970, London. Lives: Dartford.

DWAIN CHAMBERS - 100m and 4 x 100m, born 05/04/1978, London. Lives: London

JAMES DASAOLU - 100 and 4x100m, born 05/09/1987, Croydon. Lives: Loughborough.

CHRISTIAN MALCOLM - 200m and 4x100m, born 03/06/1979, Cardiff. Lives: Newport.

JAMES ELLINGTON - 200m and 4x100m, born 06/09/1985, Croydon. Lives: London.

MARTYN ROONEY - 400m and 4x400m, born 03/04/1987, Croydon. Lives: Loughborough.

CONRAD WILLIAMS - 400m and 4x400m, born 05/04/78, Kingston, Jamaica. Lives: Hither Green.

NIGEL LEVINE - 400m and 4x400m, born 30/04/1989, Bedford. Lives: Bedford.

ANDREW OSAGIE - 800m, born 19/02/88, Harlow. Lives: Twickenham.

MICHAEL RIMMER - 800m, born 03/02/1986, Southport. Lives: Manchester

GARETH WARBURTON - 800m, born 23/04/83, Beverley, Cardiff.

ROSS MURRAY - 1500m, born 02/07/91, Gateshead. Lives: Twickenham.

ANDREW BADDELEY - 1500m, born 20/06/1982, London. Lives: London.

NICK MCCORMICK - 5000m, born 06/10/1991, Newcastle. Lives: Loughborough.

MO FARAH - 5,000 and 10,000, born 23/03/1983, Somalia. Lives: Portland, USA.

CHRIS THOMPSON - 10,000m, born 17/04/1981, Barrow-in-Furness. Lives: Oregon, USA.

STUART STOKES - 3000mSC, born 05/10/1976, Bolton. Lives: Bolton

LAWRENCE CLARKE - 110m hurdles, born 12/03/1990, London. Lives: Bath.

ANDREW POZZI - 110m hurdles, born 15/05/1992, Leamington Spa. Lives: Bristol

ANDY TURNER - 110m hurdles, born 19/09/1980, Nottingham. Lives: Sutton

DAI GREENE - 400m hurdles and 4x400m, born 11/04/86, Llanelli. Lives: Trowbridge.

JACK GREEN - 400m hurdles and 4x400m, born 06/10/1991, Maidstone. Lives: Bath.

RHYS WILLIAMS - 400m hurdles, born 27/02/1984, Cardiff. Lives: London.

ROBBIE GRABARZ - high jump, born 03/10/1987, Enfield. Lives: Birmingham.

STEVE LEWIS - pole vault, born 20/05/1986, Stoke on Trent. Lives: Loughborough.

GREG RUTHERFORD - long jump, born 17/11/1986, Milton Keynes. Lives: Milton Keynes.

CHRIS TOMLINSON - long jump, born 15/09/81, Middlesbrough. Lives: London.

PHILIPS IDOWU - triple jump, born 31/12/1978, Hackney. Lives: Birmingham.

MERVYN LUCKWELL - javelin, born 29/11/1984, Milton Keynes. Lives: Loughborough.

LAWRENCE OKOYE - discus, born 06/10/1991, Croydon. Lives: Croydon.

BRETT MORSE - discus, born 11/02/1989, Cardiff. Lives: Penarth.

ABDUL BUHARI - discus, born 26/06/1982, Nigeria. Lives: London.

CARL MYERSCOUGH - Shot put, born 21 October 1979, Blackpool. Lives: USA.

ALEX SMITH - Hammer, born 06/03/1988, Hull. Lives: Hull.

Continued on page 16 ...

HAMPSHIRE PAIR NAMED IN PARALYMPICS SQUAD - SEE PAGE 27

From page 15

DANIEL AWDE - Decathlon, born 22/06/1988, Essex. Lives: Essex.

DOMINIC KING - 50k walk, born 30/05/1983, Colchester. Lives: Colchester.

DANNY TALBOT - 4x100m, born 01/05/1991, Salisbury. Lives: Trowbridge.

SIMEON WILLIAMSON - 4x100m, born 16/01/1986, London. Lives: Enfield

MARK LEWIS-FRANCIS - 4x100m, born 04/09/82, Birmingham. Lives: London.

RICHARD BUCK - 4x400m, born 14/11/1986, York. Lives: Loughborough.

LUKE LENNON-FORD - 4x400m, born 05/05/1989, Sutton Coldfield. Lives: London.

ROB TOBIN - 4x400m, born 20/12/1983, Lincoln. Lives: Basingstoke.

LEE MERRIEN - marathon, born 26/04/1979, St Andrews, Guernsey. Lives: Guernsey.

SCOTT OVERALL - marathon, born 09/02/83, London. Lives: London.

DAVID WEBB - marathon, born 17/03/1983, Leeds. Lives: Leeds.

Women:

ABI OYEPITAN - 100m and 200m, born 30/12/1997, London. Lives: London.

ANYIKA ONUORA - 100m and 200m, born 28/10/1984, Liverpool. Lives: London.

MARGARET ADEOYE - 200m, born 22/04/1985, London. Lives: London.

CHRISTINE OHURUOGU - 400m and 4x400m, born 17/05/1984, London. Lives: London.

SHANA COX - 400m and 4x400m, born 22/01/1985, Brooklyn, USA. Lives: London.

LEE MCCONNELL - 400m and 4x400m, born 09/10/1978, Glasgow. Lives: Glasgow.

LYNSEY SHARP - 800m, born 11/07/1990, Edinburgh. Lives: Edinburgh.

LAURA WEIGHTMAN - 1500m, born 01/07/1997, Alnwick. Lives: Leeds.

LISA DOBRISKEY - 1500m, born 23/12/1983, Ashford. Lives: Loughborough.

HANNAH ENGLAND - 1500m, born 06/03/1987, Oxford. Lives: Birmingham.

JO PAVEY - 5000m and 10,000m, born 20/09/1973, Exeter. Lives: Exeter.

JULIA BLEASDALE - 5000m and 10,000m, born 09/09/1981, Surrey. Lives: Surrey.

BARBARA PARKER - 5000m and 3000mSC, born 08/11/1982, King's Lynn. Lives: California, USA.

ELISH MCCOLGAN - 3000mSC, born 25/11/1990, Dundee. Lives: Carnoustie.

JOHANNA JACKSON - 20km walk, born 17/01/1985, Middlesbrough. Lives: Leeds.

TIFFANY PORTER - 100m hurdles, born 13/11/1987, Michigan, USA. Lives: London.

PERRI SHAKES-DRAYTON - 400m hurdles, born 21/12/1988, London. Lives: London.

ELIDH CHILD - 400m hurdles, born 20/02/1987, Perth. Lives: Kinross/Bath.

HOLLY BLEASDALE - pole vault, born 02/11/1991, Preston. Lives: Chorley.

KATE DENNISON - pole vault, born 07/05/1984, Durban, South Africa. Lives: Loughborough.

SHARA PROCTOR - long jump, born 16/09/1989, Anguilla. Lives: Atlanta, USA.

YAMILE ALDAMA - triple jump, born 14/08/1972, Havana, Cuba. Lives: London.

Continued on facing page ...



LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN

Aussies can cope

WINCHESTER'S Rob Moore is confident the Australian men's hockey team will cope with the loss of their star striker Des Abbott and still pose a major threat at London 2012.

The Kookaburras will be without Abbott after the 26-year-old - part of their bronze medal-winning team at Beijing 2008 - was dropped from their 16-man party for this summer's Olympics due to a knee complaint.

Moore admits the Australians have suffered a blow, but he is certainly not about to write off a side who are heading to London ranked number one in the world and have been widely regarded as gold medal favourites.

Asked about the significance of Abbott's injury for

Australia, Moore - who plays in midfield or attack for GB - said: "It's a big loss for them because he is a fantastic player."

"But the thing about the Australians, and the reason why they are one of the best teams in the world, is that they have a whole plethora of really good players."

"I'm sure they have someone equally good to step in and take his place."

GB and Australia have both been drawn in Pool A for London along with Spain, Pakistan, Argentina and South Africa, with the top two teams from the group stage advancing to the semi-finals.

The British men's side at the Beijing Games, of which Moore was a member, finished fifth overall.



ROB MOORE

Farewell to my padding

SOUTHAMPTON hockey star Alex Danson has been writing a monthly column for the *Sports Pink* as the countdown to the London Olympics gathers pace. This is her final piece before the sporting extravaganza starts ...

THE hype surrounding the Olympics is really growing.

I've seen all these amazing photos on Twitter from the GB kitting out day in Loughborough, so I am really looking forward to being there and trying everything on.

The excitement is one thing, but putting on the kit for the first time is going to make it feel even more real.

Everyone in the team has been to a multi-sport event, either the Olympics or Commonwealth Games, so it is great that we all have some experience.

We all kind of know what to expect when it comes to the Athletes Village, being kitted out, and avoiding any distractions.

There is such a fine line between balancing our lives and hockey at the moment.

We are so eager to get to the Games knowing that we've done everything possible to be prepared and ready, but that includes resting.

It's really difficult right now, because in your down time you're always thinking about hockey and what you can be doing to help yourself.

It's hard not to do some stretching or watch some video footage of matches, but actually we do need to switch off from hockey too.

I'm lucky to be doing an Open



PAIN GAME: Alex Danson injures her shoulder ... but she is confident she can play without any protection in the Games.

University degree in Sports Science and Coaching. I have one more assignment which was due in this week.

Part of me thought it was way too close to the Games to be studying, but it's actually been really good for me mentally to think about something else.

It means I can train hard during the day and come home in the evening and get my head stuck into my books.

It is a healthy distraction.

I love climbing and surfing, but I obviously can't do either of those at the moment, so it's good to have something to keep my mind off hockey and still rest physically, which is really important.

It was so hard watching from the sidelines while my shoulder was injured, but I've been back training with the team for two weeks, which has just been so amazing.

There is nothing quite like playing hockey for me.

My shoulder feels really strong. It's got padding around it when I'm playing at the moment, but that is only to make sure that by the time the Games come around it will be 100 per cent ready to go.

You can't avoid getting knocks when you play hockey, spinning off other players and tackling means there is always some contact, so the padding is just precautionary.

I'm sure I would be fine if I wasn't wearing it, but while I can make sure it is ok, I may as well do what I can.

The only problem is that it's pretty big.

It's a bit like playing with a medicine ball on my shoulder, so I hopefully won't be playing with it at the Olympics.

I really don't want to play with it anyway.

However, if I have to obviously I will, but the plan is to lose the padding a week before the Games.

Investec, the specialist bank and asset manager, support women's hockey from grass roots level through to the Great Britain national team. For more information on the women's GB team, visit www.greatbritainhockey.co.uk/2012

Investec
Women's Hockey League

DAILY ECHO AND PINK - BEST FOR OLYMPIC COUNTDOWNS



LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN

POSITIVE PRESSURES

HOME HOPES: Tom Daley and Southampton's Pete Waterfield should be medal contenders in the 10m synchro diving event in London 2012.

Olympic legend Daley believes GB stars can shine at home



FORMER British decathlete Daley Thompson believes the pressure on Great Britain's well-known competitors at the London Olympics can be harnessed as a positive by the athletes.

The likes of heptathlete Jessica Ennis, diver Tom Daley and multiple-distance runner Mo Farah have been in the public eye for the last couple of years with extensive media coverage and advertising campaigns.

But Thompson, who won gold medals at the 1980 and 1984 Olympics, reckons the extra exposure can help the respective athletes succeed.

"Everybody has got their favourites and the people they know and the people they have seen on TV in the last few years, and I'm sure they will do really well," he said.

"Over the years you come to accept that extra pressure and use it as a positive thing.

"Like everything, it can have its downsides and there will be some people it negatively affects.

"You never know who that is going to be and you hope that



DALEY THOMPSON

you have got the right kind of infrastructure and team around you to ease that kind of stress."

Despite his success in Moscow and Los Angeles, Thompson admitted he would have loved to participate in a home Olympics and the extra benefits they offer to native athletes.

He said: "I'm hoping it is going to make a huge difference to everybody because in the last eight to 10 Olympics the home nation has always done 30 or 40% better, so I'm hoping the same is going to apply to us and we are going to win a whole heap of medals.

"Everybody wants to go to an Olympic Games but the best Olympics to go to will be a home one.

"I never had the opportunity and I think every athlete would love to do that."

The successful bid for the hosting of the 2012 Games and the ensuing infrastructure surrounding the idea of creating an Olympic 'legacy' in the aftermath of the Olympics and Paralympics.

Thompson feels the lasting impact of hosting the biggest sporting event in the world is a

great way of getting the British public more involved with sport. He said: "The whole thing about the Olympic Games, at least for me, is to inspire another generation.

"The presentation of the Games is a fantastic spectacle for two-and-a-half weeks that the whole country and the whole world can enjoy.

"But the really big opportunity in having an Olympic Games is the fact you can introduce sport back into people's lives.

"In the last 10-15 years sport has become a secondary thing.

"I just think we could use the Games to really good affect to get people into sport and just being healthier.

"The more people you have coming into sport, theoretically the more chance you have of finding the superstars.

"I would love people to become superstars but the important thing is to get people into healthier lifestyles."

You can now see Daley host the 'Dazathlon' at facebook.com/dazsoapclub and find his missing trophies to be in with a chance of winning a cash prize.

From facing page

SOPHIE HITCHON - hammer, born 11/07/1991, Burnley. Lives: Loughborough.

GOLDIE SAYERS - javelin, born 16/07/1982, Newmarket. Lives: London.

JESSICA ENNIS - heptathlon and 100m hurdles, born 28/01/1986, Sheffield. Lives: Sheffield.

KATARINA JOHNSON-THOMPSON - heptathlon, born 09/01/1993, Liverpool. Lives: Liverpool.

LOUISE HAZEL - heptathlon, born 06/10/1985, Southwark. Lives: Birmingham.

MARILYN OKORO - 4x400m, born 23/09/1984, London. Lives: London.

NICOLA SANDERS - 4x400m, born 23/06/1982, Wycombe. Lives: Bourne End.

EMILY DIAMOND - 4x400m, born 11/06/1991, Bristol. Lives: Bristol.

PAULA RADCLIFFE - marathon, born 18/12/1977, Northwich. Lives: Salisbury.

MARA YAMAUCHI - marathon, born 13/08/1973, Oxford. Lives: Middlesex.

CLAIRE HALLISSEY - marathon, born 17/03/1983, Watford. Lives: Virginia, USA.

BADMINTON

Men:

CHRIS ADCOCK - born 27/04/89, Leicester. Lives: Milton Keynes.

RAJIV OUSEPH - born 30/08/86, Hounslow. Lives: Feltham.

Women:

IMOGEN BANKIER - born 18/11/87, Glasgow. Lives: Milton Keynes.

SUSAN EGELSTAFF - born 12/10/82, Glasgow. Lives: Clarkson.

BASKETBALL

Men:

KIERON ACHARA - born 03/07/1983, Stirling.

ROBERT ARCHIBALD - born 29/03/1980, Paisley.

ERIC BOATENG - born 20/11/1985, London.

DAN CLARK - born 16/09/1988, London.

LUOL DENG - born 16/04/1985, Sudan.

JOEL FREELAND - born 07/02/1987, Aldershot.

KYLE JOHNSON - born 31/12/1988, Toronto, Canada.

ANDREW LAWRENCE - born 04/06/1990, London.

MIKE LENZLY - born 01/05/1981, Oxford.

POPS MENSAH-BONSU - born 07/09/1983, London.

NATE REINKING - born 07/12/1973, Upper Sandusky, Ohio, USA.

ANDREW SULLIVAN - born 12/02/1980, London.

Women:

DOMINIQUE ALLEN - born 10/09/1989, Wordsley.

ROSE ANDERSON - born 23/03/1988, Edinburgh.

KIM BUTLER - born 07/09/1982, Tacoma, Washington.

STEF COLLINS - born 30/12/1982, Upper Heyford.

TEMI FAGBENLE - born 08/09/1992, Baltimore, USA.

CHANTELLE HANDY - born 16/06/1987, Consett, Co. Durham.

Continued on page 18

From page 17

JO LEEDHAM - born 05/12/1987, Ellesmere Port.

JULIE PAGE - born 21/04/1983, Manchester.

NATALIE STAFFORD - born 08/12/1976, Sydney, Australia.

AZANIA STEWART - born 13/04/1989, London.

RACHAEL VANDERWAL - born 27/06/1983, Burlington, Canada.

JENAYA WADE-FRAY - born 05/09/1988, St George's, Bermuda.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Men:

STEVE GROTOWSKI - born 30/05/1982, London. Lives: Boynton Beach, Florida.

JOHN GARCIA THOMPSON - born 08/06/1979, Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

Women:

ZARA DAMPNEY - born 10/06/1986, Christchurch, Dorset.

SHAUNA MULLIN - born 11/09/1984, Johannesburg, South Africa.

BOXING

Men:

LUKE CAMPBELL - born 27/09/1987, Hull. Lives: Hull.

FRED EVANS - born 04/02/1991, Cardiff. Lives: Cardiff.

ANTHONY JOSHUA - born 15/10/1989, Watford. Lives: London.

ANTHONY OGOGO - born 24/11/1988, Great Yarmouth. Lives: Lowestoft.

ANDREW SELBY - born 25/12/1988, Barry. Lives: Barry.

THOMAS STALKER - born 30/06/1984, Liverpool. Lives: Liverpool.

JOSH TAYLOR - born 02/01/1991, Prestonpans, East Lothian. Lives: Edinburgh.

Women:

NICOLA ADAMS - born 26/10/1982, Leeds. Lives: Leeds.

NATASHA JONAS - born 18/06/1984, Liverpool. Lives: Liverpool.

SAVANNAH MARSHALL - born 19/05/1991, Hartlepool. Lives: Hartlepool.

CANOE-SLALOM

Men:

TIM BAILLIE - born 11/05/79, Aberdeen. Lives: Cheshunt.

DAVID FLORENCE - born 08/08/82, Edinburgh. Lives: Loughton, Essex.

RICHARD HOUNSLOW - born 19/12/81, Harrow. Lives: Loughton, Essex.

ETIENNE STOTT - born 30/06/79, Manchester. Lives: Cheshunt.

Women:

Lizzie Neave - born 12/06/87, Newcastle-under-Lyme. Lives: Highams Park, Essex.

CANOE-SPRINT

Men:

Continued on facing page ...



LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN

THE ONLY WAY IS

South coast club have three volleyball Olympians ...



WESSEX volleyball chairman Geoff Allen expressed his delight at the club's remarkable Olympic hat-trick and admitted: "We are very proud."

The south coast outfit will be represented by three of its former players when the London 2012 Games take centre stage this summer.

Beach volleyball ace, 26, has joined fellow ex-Wessex stars Dan Hunter and Lucy Wicks in being selected for Team GB.

Like indoor players Hunter and Wicks, Christchurch-born Dampney learned her skills in the youth set-up at Poole-based Wessex Volleyball Club.

The former Parkstone Grammar School pupil and playing partner Shauna Mullin are the top British pairing and are ranked 37th in the world.

They will don the host nation's colours in the beach volleyball competition on Horse Guards Parade in London.

Wessex chief Allen said: "We are very proud that the three of them have made it."

"We are disappointed for the players that did not make it because they put in a tremendous amount of work and dedicated their lives, over the past few years, to trying to get to the Olympics."

"But we know it is a highly competitive environment and congratulate those who have made it."

At one stage, Wessex had eight contenders in the frame for selection and they could yet have a fourth Olympian as Poole's beach

player Gregg Weaver awaits a decision on his fate.

Allen added: "Lucy was the first of the three to come through."

"She has very good posture and could move very fast around the court."

"She became a setter because of that and she took to it like a duck to water."

"Zara was part of a generation when we had an outstanding group of girls."

"Six of them went on to play for England over three years and we won six national titles with them."

"Zara played for the full England women's indoor team at the age of 16 and she was a very precocious talent."

"Dan has had an outstanding attitude over the past few years and he has remained very closely in touch with the club."

Speaking after her selection, Dampney said: "I am extremely excited to represent Team GB at the Olympics and I'm looking forward to the experiences and challenges that lie ahead, especially in front of our home crowd."

Allen confirmed that Wessex were hoping to take advantage of volleyball's increasing profile by holding an open day for new members in September.

32-PAGE OLYMPIC SUPPLEMENT FREE WITH JULY 20 DAILY ECHO



LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN

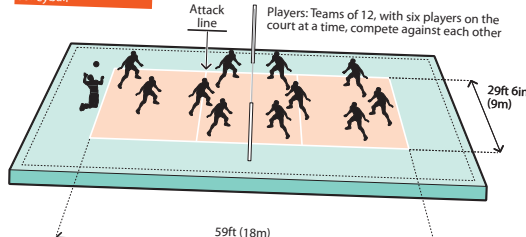
WESSEX!

FLYING THE FLAG:
Zara Dampney, right, and Shauna Mullin

Olympics 2012: Volleyball

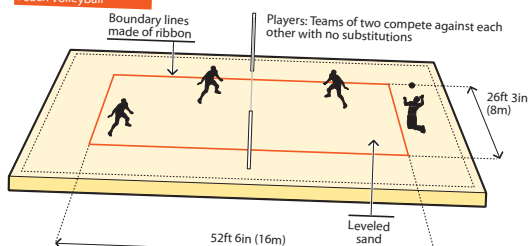
JUL 28 29 30 31 AUG 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Once called "mintonette," the game now called volleyball is today played both inside on a hard surface and outside on a sandy beach surface. Both varieties originated in the United States but quickly spread worldwide. The indoor game entered the Olympics in 1964 and beach volleyball was recognised in 1996

Volleyball



Venue: Earls Court Medal events: 2 Athletes: 288 (144 men, 144 women)
Game: Five sets maximum; the first four sets are played to 25 points, with the set-winner leading by two points; if the teams are tied 2-2 after four sets, a fifth is played to 15 points, with a two-point difference needed to win

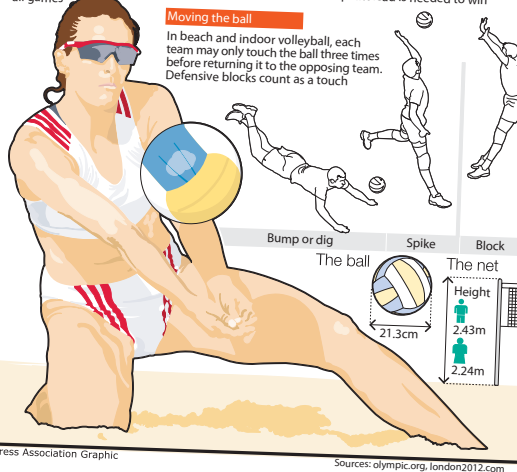
Beach volleyball



Venue: Horse Guards Parade Medal events: 2 Athletes: 96 (48 men, 48 women)
Game: Three games maximum; the first two games are played to 21 points; if the teams are tied after two games, a third is played to 15 points. A two-point lead is needed to win all games

Moving the ball

In beach and indoor volleyball, each team may only touch the ball three times before returning it to the opposing team. Defensive blocks count as a touch



Press Association Graphic

Sources: olympic.org, london2012.com



LUCY WICKS



DAN HUNTER

From facing page

TIM BRABANTS - born 23/01/77, Walton-on-Thames. Lives: Teddington.

LIAM HEATH - born 17/08/84, Guildford. Lives: Maidenhead.

RICHARD JEFFERIES - born 05/02/87, Bembridge, IOW. Lives: Nottingham.

ED MCKEEVER - born 27/08/83, Bradford-on-Avon. Lives: Wooburn Green, Bucks.

JON SCHOFIELD - born 10/05/85, Petersfield, Hants. Lives: Maidenhead.

Women:

RACHEL CAWTHORN - born 14/06/12, Guildford. Lives: Maidenhead.

ANGELA HANNAH - born 24/03/86, Harare, Zimbabwe. Lives: Taplow, Berkshire.

LOUISA SAWERS - born 26/08/88, Walton-on-Thames. Lives: Marlow.

JESS WALKER - born 24/06/90, Brighton. Lives: High Wycombe.

ABIGAIL EDMONDS - born 26/09/1990, Watford. Lives: Marlow.

CYCLING-BMX

Liam Phillips - born 11/03/1989, Taunton. Lives: Manchester.

SHANAZE READE - born 23/09/1988, Crewe. Lives: Stockport.

CYCLING-MOUNTAIN BIKE

LIAM KILLEEN - born 12/04/1982, London. Lives: Malvern.

ANNIE LAST - born 07/09/1990, Nottingham. Lives: Bakewell.

CYCLING-ROAD

Men:

MARK CAVENDISH - born 21/05/1985, Isle of Man.

CHRIS FROOME - born 20/05/1985, Nairobi, Kenya.

DAVID MILLAR - born 04/01/1977, Mtarfa, Malta.

IAN STANNARD - born 25/05/1987, Chelmsford.

BRADLEY WIGGINS - born 28/04/1980, Ghent, Belgium.

Women:

LIZZIE ARMITSTEAD - born 18/12/1988, Otley.

NICOLE COOKE - born 13/04/1983, Swansea.

LUCY MARTIN - born 05/05/1990, Widnes.

EMMA POOLEY - born 03/10/1982, London.

CYCLING-TRACK

Men:

PHILIP HINDES - born 22/09/1992, Krefeld, Germany. Lives: Manchester.

CHRIS HOY - born 23/03/1976, Edinburgh. Lives: Manchester.

JASON KENNY - born 23/03/1988, Bolton. Lives: Bolton.

STEVEN BURKE - born 04/03/1988, Burnley. Lives: Colne.

ED CLANCY - born 12/03/1985, Barnsley. Lives: Newton-le-Willows.

PETER KENNAUGH - born 15/06/1989, Isle of Man. Lives: Isle of Man.

ANDREW TENNANT - born 09/03/1987, Wolverhampton. Lives: Wilmslow.

GERAINT THOMAS - born 25/05/1986, Cardiff. Lives: Manchester.

Continued on page 20

ROUTE FOR SOUTHAMPTON'S TORCH RELAY RUN - SEE PAGES 24/25

From page 19

Women:

VICTORIA PENDLETON - born 24/09/1980, Hitchin. Lives: Manchester.

JESSICA VARNISH - born 19/11/1990, Birmingham. Lives: Manchester.

WENDY HOUVENAGHEL - born 27/11/1974, Magherafelt. Lives: Bodmin.

DANI KING - born 21/11/1990, Southampton. Lives: Southampton.

JOANNA ROWSELL - born 05/12/1988, Carshalton. Lives: Manchester.

LAURA TROTT - born 24/04/1992, Harlow. Lives: Manchester.

EQUESTRIAN-DRESSAGE**Men:**

RICHARD DAVISON - born 20/9/1955, Nottingham. Lives: Cambridge, Staffordshire.

CARL HESTER - born 29/6/1967, Isle of Sark. Lives: Newent, Gloucestershire.

Women:

CHARLOTTE DUJARDIN - born 13/7/1986, Enfield. Lives: Newent, Gloucestershire.

LAURA BECHTOLSHEIMER - born 31/5/1985, Mainz, Germany. Lives: Ampney St Peter, Gloucestershire.

EQUESTRIAN-EVENTING**Men:**

WILLIAM FOX-PITT - born 2/1/1969, Hampstead. Lives: Sturminster Newton, Dorset.

Women:

TINA COOK - born 31/8/1978, Rustington. Lives: Worthing.

ZARA PHILLIPS - born 15/5/1981, London. Lives: Stroud.

MARY KING - born 8/6/1961, Newark. Lives: Salcombe Regis, Devon.

NICOLA WILSON - born 01/10/76, Darlington. Lives: Northallerton, Yorkshire

EQUESTRIAN-JUMPING

NICK SKELTON - born 30/12/1957, Bedworth. Lives: Alcester, Warwickshire.

BEN MAHER - born 30/1/1983, Enfield. Lives: Bishops Stortford.

SCOTT BRASH - born 5/12/1985, Peebles. Lives: Peebles.

PETER CHARLES - born 1/1/1960, Liverpool. Lives: Alton, Hampshire.

FENCING**Men:**

JAMES DAVIS (foil) - born 03/07/1991, Edgware, London. Lives: Barnet.

JAMES HONEYBONE (sabre) - born 11/01/1991, Truro. Lives: Truro.

RICHARD KRUSE (foil) - born 30/07/83, London. Lives: London.

HUSAYN ROSOWSKY (foil) - born 10/04/1991, Sheffield.

Women:

ANNA BENTLEY (foil) - born 28/01/1981, Aberdeen. Lives: London.

LOUISE BOND-WILLIAMS (sabre) - born 14/05/1982, Chipping Campden. Lives: Truro.

CORINNA LAWRENCE (epee) - born 25/06/1990, Plymouth. Lives: Plymouth.

Continued on facing page ...

**LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS**

ICONIC: The torch arrives in Gold Hill, Shaftesbury, north Dorset.



LEGEND: Olympic gold medallist Michael Johnson with the torch in Salisbury.



ON THE RUN: The torch makes its way from Salisbury to Fovant and, below, goes through Winchester.



ALL SMILES: Torchbearer Maisie Rafferty, right, with Connor.



The week the Olympic torch came to our region – four-page picture special



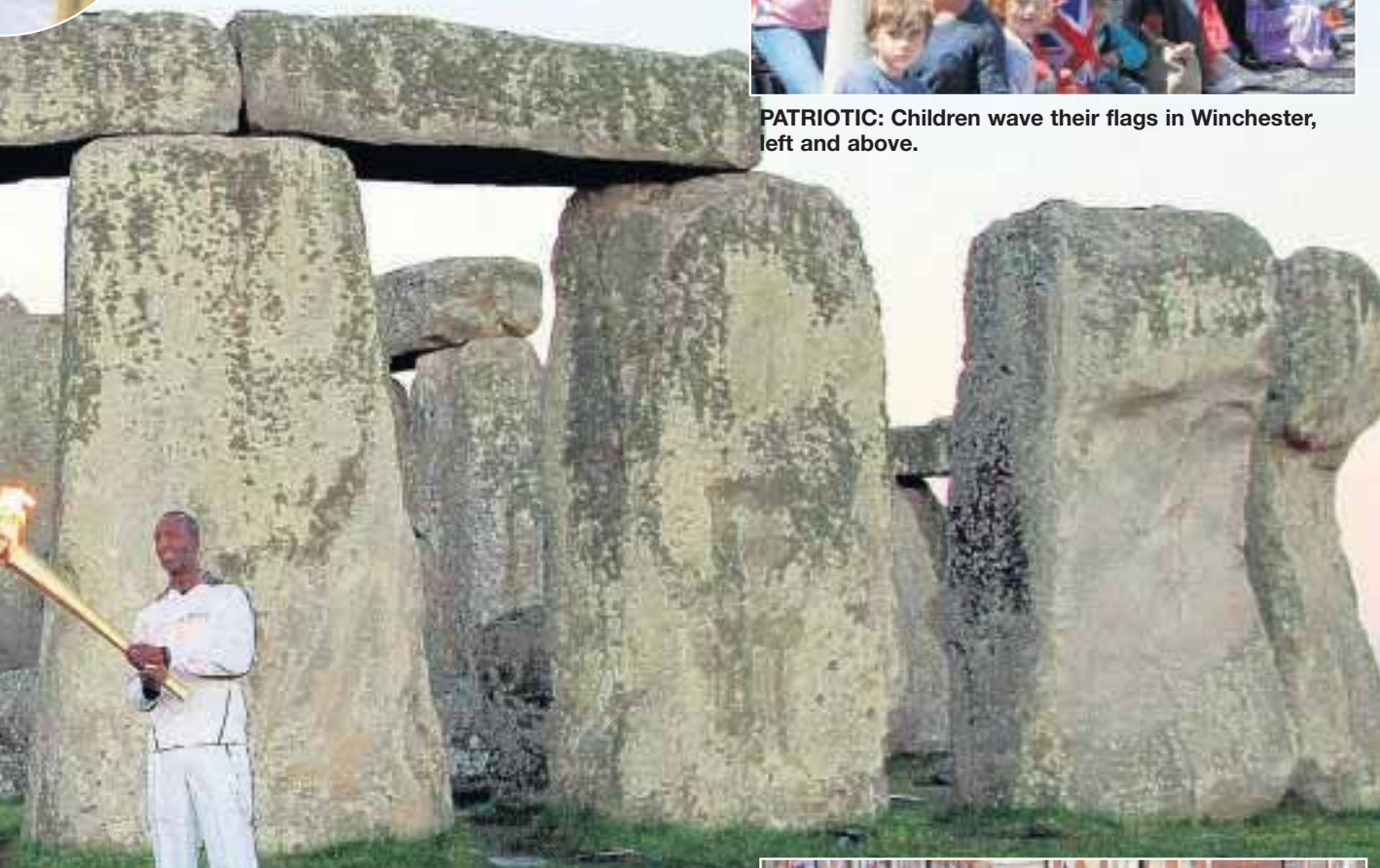
CROWD: Thousands turned out in Winchester on Wednesday.

HAVE YOU GOT AN OLYMPIC STORY YOU'D LIKE US TO COVER?

MPICS COUNTDOWN



PATRIOTIC: Children wave their flags in Winchester, left and above.



Olympic legend Michael Johnson with Salisbury's Amelia Clifford in front of the historic Stonehenge monument this week.



CROWDS: Thousands packed the streets of Blandford Forum in Dorset to welcome the torch.

From facing page

NATALIA SHEPPARD (foil) - born 27/05/1984, Gdansk, Poland. Lives: Bath.

SOPHIE TROIANO (foil) - born 18/03/1987, London. Lives: New Malden.

SOPHIE WILLIAMS (sabre) - born 21/03/1991, Rinteln, Germany. Lives: Newquay.

FOOTBALL

Men:

JOE ALLEN - born 14/3/1990, Carmarthen.

CRAIG BELLAMY - born 13/7/1979, Cardiff.

RYAN BERTRAND - born 5/8/1989, Southwark.

JACK BUTLAND - born 10/3/1983, Bristol.

TOM CLEVERLEY - born 12/8/1989, Basingstoke.

JACK CORK - born 25/6/1989, Carshalton.

STEVEN CAULKER - born 29/12/1991, Feltham.

CRAIG DAWSON - born 6/5/1990, Rochdale.

RYAN GIGGS - born 29/11/1973, Cardiff.

AARON RAMSEY - born 26/12/1990, Caerphilly.

MICAH RICHARDS - born 24/6/1988, Birmingham.

DANNY ROSE - born 2/7/1990, Doncaster.

SCOTT SINCLAIR - born 25/3/1989, Bath.

MARVIN SORDELL - born 17/2/1991, Harrow.

JASON STEELE - born 18/8/1990, Bishop Auckland.

DANIEL STURRIDGE - born 1/9/1989, Birmingham.

NEIL TAYLOR - born 7/2/1989, St Asaph.

JAMES TOMKINS - born 29/3/1989, Basildon.

Women:

ENIOLA ALUKO - born 21/2/1987, Lagos.

ANITA ASANTE - born 27/4/1985, London.

KAREN BARDSLEY - born 14/10/1984, Santa Monica.

SOPHIE BRADLEY - born 20/10/1989, Nottingham.

RACHEL BROWN - born 2/7/1980, Burnley.

KAREN CARNEY - born 1/8/1987, Birmingham.

IFEOMA DIEKE - born 25/02/1981, Amherst.

STEPHANIE HOUGHTON - born 23/4/1988, Durham.

KIM LITTLE - born 29/6/1990, Aberdeen.

CLAIRE RAFFERTY - born 11/1/1989, Orpington.

ALEX SCOTT - born 14/10/1984, London.

JILL SCOTT - born 2/2/1987, Sunderland.

KELLY SMITH - born 29/10/1978, Watford.

CASEY STONEY - born 13/5/1982, Basildon.

ELLEN WHITE - born 9/5/1989, Aylesbury.

FARA WILLIAMS - born 25/1/1984, Greenwich.

RACHEL WILLIAMS - born 10/1/1988, Leicester.

RACHEL YANKEY - born 1/11/1979, London.

Continued on page 22 ...

From page 21

GYMNASTICS-ARTISTIC

Men:

LOUIS SMITH - born 22/04/1989, Peterborough. Lives: Peterborough.

SAM OLDHAM - born 17/02/1993, Nottingham. Lives: Nottingham.

DANIEL PURVIS - born 13/11/1990, Liverpool. Lives: Southport.

KRISTIAN THOMAS - born 14/02/1980, Wolverhampton. Lives: Wolverhampton.

MAX WHITLOCK - born 13/01/1993, Hemel Hempstead. Lives: Hemel Hempstead.

Women:

REBECCA TUNNEY - born 26/10/1996, Ashton-under-Lyne. Lives: Manchester.

ELIZABETH TWEDDLE - born 01/04/1985, Johannesburg, South Africa. Lives: Bunbury, Cheshire.

IMOGEN CAIRNS - born 26/01/1989, Bristol. Lives: Bristol.

HANNAH WHELAN - born 01/07/1992, Singapore. Lives: Stockport.

JENNIFER PINCHES - born 25/05/1994, High Peak, Derbyshire. Lives: High Peak, Derbyshire.

GYMNASTICS-RHYTHMIC

Individual:

FRANCESCA JONES - born 09/11/1990, Kettering, Northamptonshire. Lives: Wellingborough, Northamptonshire.

Group:

RACHEL SMITH - born 03/01/1993, Coventry. Lives: Bath.

JADE FAULKNER - born 21/12/1993, Coventry. Lives: Swindon.

FRANCESCA FOX - born 13/06/1992, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. Lives: Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

LYNNE HUTCHISON - born 10/11/1994, Tokyo. Lives: Bath.

LOUISA POULI - born 23/01/1993, Corfu, Greece. Lives: Bath.

GEORGINA CASSAR - born 09/09/1993, Gibraltar. Lives: Bath.

GYMNASTICS-TRAMPOLINE

KATHERINE DRISCOLL - born 13/03/1986, Chatham, Medway. Lives: Houghton Le Spring, Tyne and Wear.

HANDBALL

Men:

ROBERT WHITE (captain) - born 05/04/83, Milton Keynes. Lives: Valence, France.

JESPER PARKER - born 18/04/84, Gothenburg, Sweden. Lives: Gothenburg.

JOHN PEARCE - born 23/11/87, Poole, Dorset.

MARK HAWKINS - born 28/12/85, Cuckfield, West Sussex. Lives: Reykjavik, Iceland.

MARTIN HARE - born 28/11/89, Stavanger, Norway.

CIARAN WILLIAMS - born 22/12/87, Salford. Lives: Bury.

Continued on facing page ...



LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN



FLYING THE FLAG: Crowds in Winchester, above, and Salisbury, above right.



CAPTION: Kirstie Nash and Phil Blowfield at Winchester Cathedral.



FLYING THE FLAG: Youngsters in Winchester.



HANDOVER: Benjamin Payne, left, and Charlotte Towell at Broadway, Winchester.



FLYING THE FLAG: Grace Castle, 2, in Winchester with dad Mark.



LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN



REPEAT RUN: The Olympic torch is taken down Winchester Street in Basingstoke back in 1948, below. The same torch, and the current one, is pictured above in the same road earlier this week.



ALL SMILES: Caroline Burnett, right, in Salisbury, where crowds, below, turned out to watch the relay.



STAR NAMES: Jockey Frankie Dettori produces his famous leap with the torch at Ascot racecourse this week.



STAR NAME: Former Olympic gold medallist Denise Lewis carries the torch at Ascot racecourse.

From facing page

CHRIS MOHR - born 12/01/90, Frankfurt, Germany. Lives: Aarhus, Denmark.

STEVEN LARSSON - born 01/05/81 Scarborough. Lives: Oslo, Denmark.

SEB EDGAR - born 26/05/91, Saint Peray, France. Lives: Lyon.

SEB PRIETO - born 04/02/1987 Monaco. Lives: Valence, France.

GAWAIN VINCENT - born 09/03/90, Les Lilas, France. Lives: Nantes, France.

ROBIN GARNHAM - born 01/05/88, Karlstad, Sweden. Lives: Gothenburg.

DAN MCMILLAN - born 12/08/82, Brockenhurst. Lives: Aarhus, Denmark.

CHRIS MCDERMOTT - born 07/06/89, Prenton, Merseyside. Lives: Birkenhead.

Women:

SARAH HARGREAVES - born 17/05/89 Farewell, Denmark. Lives: Denmark.

JANE MAYES - born 10/01/89, Esbjerg, Denmark. Lives: Crystal Palace.

LOUISE JUKES - born 14/04/84, Ashford, Kent. Lives: Crystal Palace.

Yvonne Leuthold - born 30/01/80 Berne, Switzerland. Lives: London.

KELSI FAIRBROTHER - born 05/08/89 Hillingdon, Middlesex. Lives: Esbjerg, Denmark.

LYNN MCCAFFERTY - born 15/04/79, Coatbridge, Glasgow. Lives: Crystal Palace.

HOLLY LAM-MOORES - born 12/09/90, Burnley, Lancashire. Lives: London.

BRITT GOODWIN - born 24/04/83, Gjøvik, Norway. Lives: Crystal Palace.

LYN BYL - born 01/12/79, Wuppertal, Germany. Lives: London.

NINA HEGLUND - born 24/07/93, Oslo, Norway. Lives: Crystal Palace.

KATHRYN FUDGE - born 10/11/89, Beckenham, Kent. Lives: Birkbeck, London.

ZOE VAN DE WEEL - born 14/11/90, Edinburgh. Lives: Crystal Palace.

EWA PALIES - born 30/01/89, Montpellier, France. Lives: Beckenham.

MARIE GERBRON - born 23/12/86, Harfleur, France. Lives: Crystal Palace.

HOCKEY

Men:

NICK CATLIN - born 08/04/89 Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

JONTY CLARKE - born 28/01/81 Southend-on-Sea, Essex.

MATT DALY - born 08/07/83 Saudi Arabia.

JAMES FAIR - born 08/01/81 Chester, Cheshire.

DAN FOX - born 03/03/83 Godalming, Surrey.

BEN HAWES - born 28/07/80 Lewes, Sussex.

ASHLEY JACKSON - born 27/08/87 Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

GLENN KIRKHAM - born 08/10/82 Grimsby, North Lincolnshire.

IAIN LEWERS - born 05/01/84 Belfast, Northern Ireland.

IAIN MACKAY - born 24/4/84 Braintree, Essex.

Continued on page 24 ...

ECHO AND PINK - ALWAYS BEST FOR OLYMPIC COUNTDOWN NEWS

From page 23

HARRY MARTIN - born 23/01/92 Ipswich, Suffolk.

BARRY MIDDLETON - born 12/01/84 Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

ROB MOORE - born 21/05/81 Winchester, Hampshire.

RICHARD SMITH - born 28/09/87 Portsmouth, Hampshire.

JAMES TINDALL - born 22/04/83 Virginia Water, Surrey.

ALASTAIR WILSON - born 19/12/83 Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

Women:

ASHLEIGH BALL - born 25/03/86 Brighton, Sussex.

LAURA BARTLETT - born 22/06/88 Glasgow.

CRISTA CULLEN - born 20/08/85 Boston, Lincolnshire.

ALEX DANSON - born 21/05/85 Southampton.

HANNAH MACLEOD - born 09/06/84 Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.

EMILY MAGUIRE - born 17/12/87 Paisley, Scotland.

ANNE PANTER - born 28/1/84 Wellingborough.

HELEN RICHARDSON - born Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

CHLOE ROGERS - born 30/03/85 Harlow, Essex.

BETH STORRY - born 24/04/78 Reading.

SARAH THOMAS - born 13/01/81 Abedare, Wales.

GEORGIE TWIGG - born 21/11/90 Lincoln.

LAURA UNSWORTH - born 08/03/88 Sutton Coldfield.

KATE WALSH - born 09/05/80 Withington, Manchester.

SALLY WALTON - born 09/09/84 Solihull.

NICOLA WHITE - born 20/01/88 Oldham, Greater Manchester.

JUDO**Men:**

ASHLEY MCKENZIE (-60kg) - born 17/7/1989 London.

COLIN OATES (-66kg) - born 07/06/1983 North Lopham, Norfolk.

DANIEL WILLIAMS (-73kg) - born 20/04/89 Shrewsbury, lives Camberley.

EUAN BURTON (-81kg) born 31/03/79 Ascot, lives Edinburgh.

WINSTON GORDON (-90kg) born 09/11/76 London.

JAMES AUSTIN (-100kg) born 05/04/83 Lichfield, lives Edinburgh.

CHRISTOPHER SHERRINGTON (+100kg) born 21/10/82 Wigan, lives Edinburgh.

Women:

KELLY EDWARDS (48kg) born 09/12/90 Telford, lives Kent.

SOPHIE COX (-52kg) born 23/12/82 Rochdale, lives Kent.

SARAH CLARK (-57kg) born 03/01/78 South Shields, lives Edinburgh.

Continued on facing page ...



LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN

Stage 1 – New Forest, Saturday, July 14 am

SPORTING history will unfold in the Forest from 10.10am on Saturday, when the torch arrives in Lyndhurst.

It will be carried from Bournemouth Road through the High Street and around the one-way system into Gosport Lane.

The flame will then travel in convoy mode until it reaches Balmer Lawn in Brockenhurst, where torchbearers will then pick up the baton again from 10.25am.

It will be carried along the A337 and into Brockenhurst College, which will host its own celebratory event.

When the flame emerges from the college at 10.55am, it will be paraded towards Lymington, finishing just before the level crossing at 11am.

After travelling by convoy to Lymington, the route will take in Southampton Road, Queen Street and St Thomas Street, before heading into the High Street where hundreds are expected to gather to catch a glimpse of the flame.

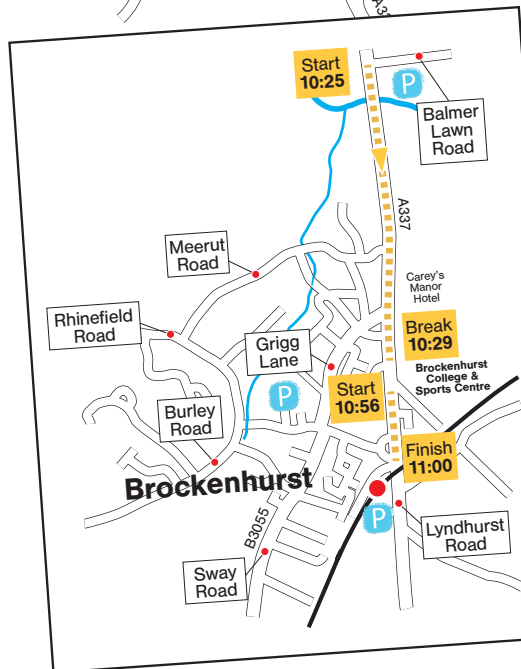
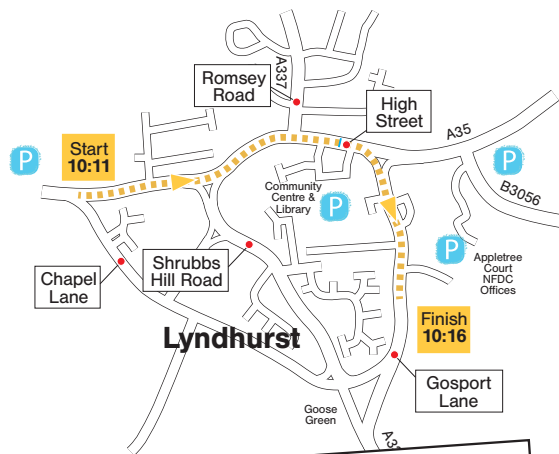
The relay through the Forest will come to a close at 11.36am, on Bridge Road.

But residents will be able to party on into the afternoon, thanks to the Olympic Torch and Jubilympics Parade.

Lion's carnival chairman Ian Duncan said: "Hopefully, the sun will shine on us for Lymington and Pennington's big day. It would be marvellous to think that everyone in the area would want to take part in this historical day for the town."

Torch-bearer Chris Clark, the Lymington angling expert, will lead the Jubilympics Parade, carrying his torch on top of the New Forest open top bus.

The parade will start from Pennington Common, at 5.30pm, before reaching High Street at 6.30pm. During the parade, Pennington Common will host a fun fair, which is set to remain open until 9.30pm.



TORCH SPECIAL: 12-page Olympic torch pull-out is in Monday's *Southern Daily Echo*.

BEST PLACES TO STAND:

Organisers of the Olympic Torch relay in Southampton have offered advice to residents on the best places to watch the event.

Families who want a great vantage point while avoiding the biggest crowds of the day are being urged to head to Hoglands Park or Queensway, near the Holyrood Estate, which are set to be the quieter areas of the city during the relay.

Southampton City Council chiefs have also recommended lining the streets of Marine Parade, near St Mary's Stadium, where the torch will travel at about 6.28pm, just after it's lap of the football pitch.

Revellers looking for a more lively atmosphere can catch the relay along the QE2 Mile from Below Bar, where it will head east just short of Guildhall Square.

Early risers will have a final opportunity to see the torch in a quieter atmosphere on Sunday, when it leaves Guildhall Square at 6am.

Stage 2 – IoW, Saturday pm

The torch will arrive on the Isle of Wight in Yarmouth, at 12.44pm, after crossing the Solent on board a Wightlink ferry.

It will then begin its journey to The Needles Park, with the first torchbearer set to carry the flame from Colwell Road, in Totland, at 1.08pm.

The route will see the flame carried through to York Lane, with torchbearers parading the torch around The Needles Park from 1.27pm.

During its visit to the park, the flame will be carried down the chairlift to the seafront, before returning to the top at 1.58pm.

At this point, the torch will travel in convoy to Yarmouth, where the next torchbearer will carry the flame on River Road, at 2.14pm.

The flame will be carried through the town via Quay Street, Pier Street, the High Street, Baskett's Lane, Tennyson Road and The Mount.

At 2.23pm it will then be taken towards Carisbrooke, where the next torchbearer will carry the flame in Gunville Road, from 2.38pm.

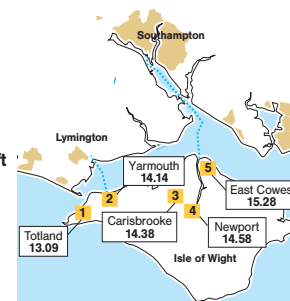
Several torchbearers will parade the flame through Carisbrooke High Street and on through Newport town centre, heading down the High Street towards Coppins Bridge.

From there, it will travel down Fairlee Road, to Medina College at 3.17pm, to make a flying visit to the Isle of Wight Primary School Games.

The final leg of the relay on the island will see the torch carried in convoy mode to Osborne House, in East Cowes.

Here, a torchbearer will run through the grounds, before exiting on to The Avenue at 3.50pm.

The flame will then be carried on to York Avenue and Well Road, before finishing its journey at Red Funnel's vehicle yard, where it will board a vessel to Southampton.





LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN

FOLLOW THE FLAME

Stages 3 & 4 – Southampton

Saturday, July 14 pm & Sunday, July 15 am



A RED Funnel ferry will bring the Olympic Flame into Southampton in a blaze of glory on Saturday evening.

The torch is set to touch down at 5.40pm, before beginning a four-mile tour of the city.

The first torchbearers will take the flame through Dock Gate 7 and on to Bugle Street.

It will then turn right onto the High Street, where hundreds are expected to gather to cheer the torch through Below Bar.

At 5.46pm, the torch will pass East Street and then the Bargate, before reaching Above Bar at 5.49pm.

Here, on the corner of the High Street and Pound Tree Road, is the site of the Coca Cola stop, which will be dishing out free drinks and laying on entertainment for the gathering crowds.

The route will continue past Palmerston Park up towards

Guildhall Square, where the Olympic Activity Village will be based, laying on a host of free activities to allow youngsters to try their arm at a range of different sports.

A right turn will see the route enter Civic Centre Road at 6.08pm, before turning right again onto Palmerston Road, to complete a circuit of the park.

The flame will pass through Hoglands Park at 6.10pm – another site that expected to prove popular.

Torchbearers will then begin to head for St Mary's Stadium, turning left onto Houndwell Place, before continuing on to Chapel Road.

At 6.21pm, the flame will turn left into Granville Street and continue on to Melbourne Street, where the stadium will come into view.

The torch is set to arrive inside St Mary's at 6.25pm, where it will complete a lap of the pitch, during the Marcus Leiherr Memorial Cup football.

Following the lap of the pitch, the torch will rejoin the streets of Southampton on Belvidere Road at

6.28pm, before continuing on to Marine Parade.

The flame will travel back down Chapel Road, Evans Street and Houndwell Place, before turning left onto Queensway at 6.39pm.

With Mayflower Park in sight, the route turns right onto Bernard Street and then left onto the bottom end of High Street, at 6.44pm.

It will then turn right along Town Quay, before making its grand entrance in front of 15,000 revellers at the evening celebration, in Mayflower Park, at 6.49pm.

The torch will stay in Southampton overnight, before leaving Guildhall Square at 6.05am on Sunday.

It will travel down West Marlands Road, before entering Above Bar Street at 6.07am and onto London Road at 6.11am.

Torchbearers will then parade the torch down The Avenue, before it enters convoy mode on route to Southampton Airport, ahead of a visit to the Channel Islands.

MAYFLOWER PARK EVENTS

Saturday

4pm – 5pm Pre-show: Uplifting music and showing of looped Olympics-themed video content, as crowd begin to arrive.

5pm – MC takes to the stage to welcome the crowd and introduce the first performance of the evening, 'The Flame' dance act from Woodlands Community College.

5.15pm – Countdown video to the Olympic flame arrival begins.

5.45pm – Brief interviews with selected guests.

6.10pm – Wretch 32 takes to the stage for a 30 minute performance.

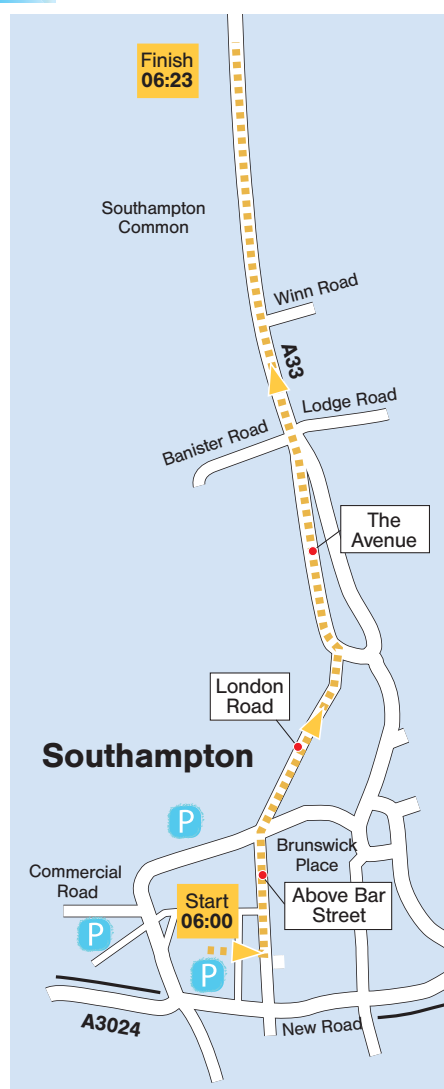
6.40pm – Special guests welcomed back on to the stage to form a welcome party for the Flame. Mayor of Southampton, Cllr Derek Burke, is expected to make a speech.

6.50pm – Olympic Flame arrives in Mayflower Park and cauldron is lit.

7pm – Art Asia Dhol Drummers take to the stage

7.15pm – Olympic videos begin to draw the celebrations to a close

7.30pm – Live performance from the Rock Choir



From facing page

GEMMA HOWELL (-63kg) born 13/06/90, Telford, lives Kent.

SALLY CONWAY (-70kg) born 01/02/87 Bristol, lives Edinburgh.

GEMMA GIBBONS (-78kg) born 06/01/87 Greenwich.

KARINA BRYANT (+78kg) born 27/01/79 Kingston, lives Camberley

MODERN PENTATHLON

Men:

NICK WOODBRIDGE - born 01/07/1986, Telford. Lives: Bath.

SAM WEALE - born 09/02/1982, Yeovil. Lives: Bath.

Women:

MHAIRI SPENCE - born 31/08/1985, Farr nr Inverness. Lives: Bath.

SAMANTHA MURRAY - born 25/09/1989, Clitheroe. Lives: Bath.

ROWING

Men:

CHRIS BARTLEY - born 02/02/84, Chester. Lives: Henley-on-Thames.

ALAN CAMPBELL - born 09/05/83, Coleraine. Lives: Richmond.

PETER CHAMBERS - born 14/03/90, Coleraine. Lives: Henley-on-Thames.

RICHARD CHAMBERS - born 10/06/85, Coleraine. Lives: Maidenhead.

CHARLES COUSINS - born 13/12/88, Willingham, Cambs. Lives: Cambridge.

RICHARD EGINGTON - born 26/02/79, Knutsford. Lives: Henley-on-Thames.

JAMES FOAD - born 20/03/87, Southampton. Lives: Hampton, Middlesex.

ALEX GREGORY - born 11/03/84, Wormington. Lives: Henley-on-Thames.

PHELAN HILL (cox) - born 21/07/79, Bedford. Lives: London.

MARK HUNTER - born 01/07/78, Romford. Lives: High Wycombe.

TOM JAMES - born 11/03/84, Wrexham. Lives: Henley-on-Thames.

MATTHEW LANGRIDGE - born 20/05/83, Northwich. Lives: Henley-on-Thames.

BILL LUCAS - born 13/08/87, Kingswear. Lives: London.

GEORGE NASH - born 02/10/89, Guildford. Lives: Guildford.

ALEX PARTRIDGE - born 25/01/81, Alton, Hants. Lives: Henley-on-Thames.

ZAC PURCHASE - born 02/05/86, Tewkesbury. Lives: Wallingford.

PETE REED - born 27/07/81, Nailsworth. Lives: Chiswick.

TOM RANSLEY - born 06/09/85, Cambridge. Lives: Cambridge.

STEPHEN ROWBOTHAM - born 11/11/81, Winscombe, Somerset. Lives: Isleworth, London.

WILL SATCH - born 09/06/89, Henley. Lives: Maidenhead.

MOHAMED SBIHI - born 27/03/88, Surbiton. Lives: Surbiton.

GREG SEARLE - born 20/03/72, Ashford, Middlesex. Lives: Marlow.

TOM SOLESBURY - born 23/09/80, Farnborough. Lives Henley-on-Thames.

Continued on page 26 ...

From page 25

SAM TOWNSEND - born 26/11/85, Reading. Lives: Reading.

ANDREW TRIGGS HODGE - born 03/03/79, Aylesbury. Home town, Hebden. Lives: Oxford.

MATTHEW WELLS - born 19/04/79, Bradford. Home town, Hexham. Lives: Putney.

ROB WILLIAMS - born 21/01/85, Taplow, Bucks. Home town, Maidenhead. Lives: London.

CONSTANTINE LOULOUDIS - born 15/09/91, London. Lives: Oxford.

Women:

KATHERINE COPELAND - born 01/12/90, Ashington. Lives: Stokesley, North Yorkshire.

DEBBIE FLOOD - born 27/02/80, Harrogate, N Yorks. Home town, Guiseley. Lives: Henley-on-Thames.

HELEN GLOVER - born 17/06/86, Truro. Home town, Penzance. Lives: Reading.

KATHERINE GRAINGER - born 12/11/75, Glasgow. Home town, Aberdeen. Lives: Maidenhead.

SOPHIE HOSKING - born 25/01/86, Edinburgh. Lives: Wimbledon.

FRANCES HOUGHTON - born 19/09/80, Oxford. Lives: Henley-on-Thames.

CAROLINE O'CONNOR (cox) - born 25/04/83, Ealing. Lives: Henley-on-Thames.

BETH RODFORD - born 28/12/82, Burton-upon-Trent. Home town, Gloucester. Lives: Reading.

HEATHER STANNING - born 26/01/85, Yeovil. Home town, Lissiemouth. Lives: Reading.

ANNA WATKINS - born 13/02/83, Leek. Lives: Wokingham.

MELANIE WILSON - born 25/06/84, Southampton. Lives: London.

JESSICA EDDIE - born 07/10/84, Durham. Lives: Isleworth, London.

KATIE GREVES - born 02/09/82, London. Home town, Oxford. Lives: Henley-on-Thames.

NATASHA PAGE - born 30/04/85, Hartbury. Lives: Reading.

LOUISA REEVE - born 16/05/84, London. Lives: Henley.

VICTORIA THORNLEY - born 30/11/87, St Asaph, Wales. Home town, Wrexham. Lives: Henley-on-Thames.

ANNABEL VERNON - born 01/09/82, Truro. Home town, Wadebridge. Lives: Henley-on-Thames.

OLIVIA WHITLAM - born 16/09/85, Warrington. Lives: Henley-on-Thames.

LINDSEY MAGUIRE - born 15/01/1982, Edinburgh. Lives: Wallingford.

SAILING**Men:**

BEN AINSLIE - born 05/02/77, Macclesfield. Lives: Lymington, Hants.

STUART BITHELL - born 28/08/86, Rochdale. Lives: Portland.

NICK DEMPSEY - born 13/08/80, Norwich. Lives: Weymouth.

Continued on facing page ...



LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN

GB Olympic rivals call up global star names for action



JACK Cork and his Great Britain Olympic colleagues are being joined in the London Games by some major international names from around the world.

Euro 2012 winners Juan Mata, Jordi Alba, left, and Javi Martinez are all in the Spain squad. Liverpool ace Luis

Suarez, meanwhile, is in the Uruguay squad.

Porto striker Hulk is one of Brazil coach Mano Menezes' three over-age players for the Olympics. AC Milan's Thiago Silva and Real Madrid left back Marcelo join Hulk in an 18-man squad aiming to become the first Brazil side to win

Olympic gold.

Strikers Suarez and Edinson Cavani have been named in Uruguay's squad.

Suarez's Liverpool teammate Sebastian Coates was also included in the 18-man squad, which features Napoli ace Cavani.

It has been 84 years

since Uruguay last played at an Olympics after winning back-to-back golds at the 1924 and 1928 games.

In a sign of how seriously Uruguay is taking the tournament, they have named national team coach Oscar Tabarez to lead the Olympic squad in London.

GARETH Southgate is urging Saints midfielder Jack Cork and the rest of Team GB's history-makers to treat the Olympic football tournament as a major step in their careers.

Stuart Pearce's men's team will launch their Group A campaign against Senegal at Old Trafford on July 26 with high hopes of making an impact.

However Southgate, the Football Association's head of elite development, knows from experience how seriously other nations treat the competition.

He said: "Our guys face a disadvantage compared to a lot of the others sides as they will have been together a lot longer."

"Stuart has just got his

players together, while teams like Brazil have played a series of friendly games already.

"There's a lot of ability in the squad.

"It's a shame to lose the likes of Gareth Bale, Phil Jones and Chris Smalling to injury, as they would all have been key players, but it's still a good squad.

"The unknown is some of the other countries, though. They all take their junior international teams very seriously.

"I remember the Australian boys I played with at Middlesbrough - people like Mark Viduka and Luke Wilkshire - all played in Olympic tournaments and saw it as a big part of their progression.

"Lionel Messi made a big thing of making sure he was available for the last Olympics, and the top Brazilians are taking great pride in being involved this time.

"Because we have never been in it over here, I don't think we have realised the importance of the Olympic tournament."

Great Britain last fielded a team in the men's tournament at the Olympics in 1960, but will inevitably be installed among the favourites.

However, so too will Brazil, who are yet to win the tournament but will head into their final warm-up fixture against Pearce's men at

This could be a big step for Jack



Middlesbrough's Riverside Stadium next Friday evening with an impressively strong squad which includes Santos' rising star Neymar as well as Porto frontman Hulk and AC Milan's Alexandre Pato.

Asked about Neymar in particular, Southgate said: "He's special. I saw him play against Scotland at the Emirates when he scored the two goals and I've seen some brilliant goals he's scored back in Brazil.

"In years to come, we could be saying that we remember when he came across to Britain and we saw him at the Olympics - or at the Riverside.

"He could be up there with the Ronaldos and Ronaldinhos.

"There's speculation about him joining Barcelona, but Brazilian football is very strong on and off the pitch at present so a lot of their top players are staying there or going back there after playing abroad.

"Brazil are clearly taking this very seriously as the Olympics is not only the one major tournament they have never won, but they are preparing to host the next World Cup too.

"It grates with Brazil that Argentina have won it but they haven't.

"You only have to see the strength of their squad to know how much this means to them, with players like Neymar, Sandro, Lucas and Oscar all involved.

"Then, when you see the over-age players they have included (Hulk, Marcelo and Thiago Silva), it just makes them even stronger."

OLYMPIC CHANCE: Saints midfielder Jack Cork, left.

FOR UP TO DATE SPORTS NEWS, LOG ONTO www.dailyecho.co.uk



LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN



Bethany called up for GB Paralympic athletics team

FORMER New Forest schoolgirl Bethany Woodward has been selected for the GB athletics Paralympic squad.

The 19-year-old – born on Boxing Day 1992 – will compete in the T37 200m and 4 x 100m relay events in London.

Born in Sussex, Woodward, left, was brought up on the Hampshire/Dorset borders, going to school in Ringwood and to Brockenhurst College. Her family home is still on the edge of the New Forest.

Woodward is one of 49 men and women chosen for the GB athletics squad.

Also included is Olivia Breen, from Liphook in north Hampshire, who competes in the T38 100m and 200m sprints.

The 16-year-old recently

returned from the 2012 European Championships in Holland with two bronze medals.

Woodward and Breen will make their Paralympic debut as part of a team which features a number of experienced track and field campaigners.

The team includes double Beijing gold medallist David Weir, Stephen Miller, three-time Paralympic gold medallist in the F32 Club Throw, and Tracey Hinton, a double gold medallist in the T11 100m and 200m at the recent European Championships.

Craig Hunter, Chef de Mission of ParalympicsGB, said: "This team has a promising balance of experience and new, up-and-coming talent and I can't wait to see how they perform in London."

UKA head coach Peter Eriksson said: "We've made a lot of changes since Beijing where we finished 18th overall and that medal performance has been our benchmark for progress ever since."

"We had a hugely successful World Championships in January 2011 where we won 38 medals and finished third in the medal table."

"Now, in my third full year at UKA, we're starting to see the gradual transition to a much more professional squad with a fantastic team spirit as well as having competent performers."

"Overall the strength and depth of the squad has improved."

"We've seen a tremendous increase in the number of new athletes coming into the sport."

GIGGS: WE'RE ALL GOING FOR GOLD!

TEAM GB captain Ryan Giggs believes he may soon be adding an Olympic gold medal to his long list of honours.

The 38-year-old Manchester United veteran has been named as skipper of the 18-man Olympic squad by manager Stuart Pearce.

Giggs, one of three over-age players, will be making his first appearance at a major tournament this summer after a lengthy and hugely successful club career.

Among his team-mates are Saints midfielder Jack Cork and Basingstoke-born Manchester United colleague Tom Cleverley.

Highly-decorated Giggs is proud to be representing Britain at the Games and believes he may well soon have another medal to add to his glittering collection.

"We hope we can get gold," he said.

"That is what the players are hoping for."

"The players are winners and want to do well."

"You want that gold medal."

"It is going to be tough because

'That's what we are aiming for'

a lot of the other nations have picked good players and have got good team."

"It is going to be tough, but we have a good chance."

Giggs added: "It (the Olympics) is a unique experience and one from the start that I wanted to be part of when I got the opportunity."

"It just got more and more exciting as the Games got nearer and then when the squads were announced I was obviously really, really proud to be involved."

Giggs, right, had been expected to feature for Team GB alongside former United team-mate David Beckham this summer, but the LA Galaxy midfielder was conspicuous by his absence when the squad was unveiled.

"It is disappointing for David, obviously not being involved," Giggs said of his omission.

"As a friend I am disappointed for him but as a player you just get on with it and just try to

enjoy the experience and that is what I am trying to do."

Giggs was also quick to turn attention back to football when asked about the politics surrounding Team GB.

Much had been made of the reluctance of the Welsh, Scottish and Northern Irish associations to give their blessing to the unified GB team.

As it is, no players have been selected from Scotland or Northern Ireland, although five Welshman, including Giggs, have been included in Pearce's 18-man squad.

"All I have seen [is what is] in the press, really," Giggs said. "As a player and a Welshman, I just wanted to be involved."

"We just wanted an opportunity to play for Great Britain in an Olympics on home turf, so it was a chance we couldn't turn down."

"It was one we're excited about and if other people want to disagree with then that's their prerogative, but I am excited and can't wait."



From facing page

STEVIE MORRISON - born 25/11/78, Eastbourne. Lives: Exmouth.

LUKE PATIENCE - born 04/08/86, Helensburgh, Argyll and Bute. Lives: Weymouth.

IAIN PERCY - born 21/03/76, Southampton. Lives: Valencia.

BEN RHODES - born 10/05/81, Southampton. Lives: Exmouth.

ANDREW SIMPSON - born 17/12/76, Chertsey. Lives: Sherborne, North Dorset.

Women:

Saskia Clark - born 23/08/79, Colchester. Lives: Weymouth.

ANNIE LUSH - born 11/04/80, Poole. Lives: Poole.

KATE MACGREGOR - born 12/01/91, Poole. Lives: Poole.

LUCY MACGREGOR - born 28/11/86, Poole. Lives: Poole.

HANNAH MILLS - born 29/02/88, Cardiff. Lives: Cardiff.

BRYONY SHAW - born 28/04/83, Wandsworth. Lives: Weymouth.

ALISON YOUNG - born 29/05/87, Wolverhampton. Lives: Weymouth.

SHOOTING

Men:

RICHARD BRICKELL (Skeet) - born 29/10/1975, Newbury. Lives: Newbury.

RICHARD FAULDS (Double trap) - born 16/03/1977, Guildford. Lives: Highclere.

JONATHAN HAMMOND (Prone rifle) - born 01/10/1980, Aberdeen. Lives: West Virginia.

JAMES HUCKLE (Three position rifle) - born 17/09/1990, Harlow. Lives: Harlow.

ED LING (Trap) - born 07/03/83, Taunton. Lives: Wellington.

RORY WARLOW (Skeet) - born 13/04/1990, Plymouth. Lives: Plymouth.

PETER WILSON (Double trap) - born 15/09/1986, Dorchester. Lives: Sherborne.

WOMEN:

ELENA ALLEN (Skeet) - born 12/07/1972, Moscow. Lives: Newport.

GEORGINA GEIKIE (25m pistol) - born 06/12/84, Okehampton. Lives: Exeter.

CHARLOTTE KERWOOD (Trap) - born 15/09/1986, Cuckfield. Lives: Fletching.

JENNIFER MCINTOSH (Air rifle) - born 17/06/1991, Edinburgh. Lives: Aberdeen.

TABLE TENNIS

PAUL DRINKHALL (men's singles & team) - born 16/01/1990, Middlesbrough. Lives: Rotherham.

LIAM PITCHFORD (men's team) - born 12/07/1993, Chesterfield. Lives: Chesterfield.

ANDREW BAGGALEY (men's team) - born 26/02/1983, Northampton. Lives: Milton Keynes.

JOANNA PARKER (women's singles & team) - born 10/06/1987, Surrey. Lives: Rotherham.

NA LIU (women's team) - born 07/02/1983, Liaoning, China. Lives: Cardiff.

KELLY SIBLEY (women's team) - born 21/05/1988, Leamington Spa. Lives: Leamington Spa.

Continued on page 28 ...

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From page 27

TAEKWONDO

Men:

MARTIN STAMPER - (68kg) born 21/08/86 Liverpool, lives Manchester.

LUTALO MUHAMMAD - (80kgs) born 03/06/91 London, lives Manchester.

Women:

JADE JONES - (-57kgs) born 21/03/93 Bodelwyddan, Wales, lives Manchester.

SARAH STEVENSON - (-67kgs) born 30/03/83 Doncaster, lives Manchester.

TENNIS

Men:

ANDY MURRAY - born 15/05/1987, Glasgow. Lives: Oxshott, Surrey.

JAMIE MURRAY - born 13/02/1986, Dunblane. Lives: London.

COLIN FLEMING - born 13/08/1984, Linlithgow. Lives: Linlithgow.

ROSS HUTCHINS - born 22/02/1985, London. Lives: London.

Women:

ANNE KEOTHAVONG - born 16/09/1983, London. Lives: London.

ELENA BALTACHA - born 14/08/1983, Kiev, Ukraine. Lives: Ipswich.

LAURA ROBSON - born 21/01/1994, Melbourne, Australia. Lives: London.

HEATHER WATSON - born 19/05/1992, Guernsey. Lives: Bradenton, Florida.

TRIATHLON

Men:

ALISTAIR BROWNLEE - born 23/04/1988, Dewsbury. Lives: Bramhope nr Leeds.

JONNY BROWNLEE - born 30/04/1990, Leeds. Lives: Bramhope nr Leeds.

STUART HAYES - born 16/04/1979, London. Lives: London.

Women:

HELEN JENKINS - born 08/03/1984, Elgin. Lives: Bridgend.

VICKY HOLLAND - born 12/01/1986, Gloucester. Lives: Swansea.

LUCY HALL - born 21/02/1992, Leicester. Lives: Lutterworth, Leicestershire.

VOLLEYBALL

Men:

DAMI BAKARE - born 22/09/1988, Kaduna, Nigeria.

PETER BAKARE - born 02/07/1989, London.

NATHAN FRENCH - born 24/04/1990, Chelmsford.

JASON HALDANE - born 23/07/71, Terrace, Canada.

DAN HUNTER - born 23/01/1990, Poole.

CHRIS LAMONT - born 07/12/1982, Glasgow.

MARK MCGIVERN - born 24/02/1983, Belshill.

JOEL MILLER - born 15/12/1988, Bury.

Continued on facing page ...

BRITISH OPEN GOLF 2012 PREVIEW

The OPEN Championship

JULY 19th - 22nd, 2012

Overview of Royal Lytham and St Annes Open course

THE 141st OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP, Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club, England

Blackpool
Lytham St Annes

Northern Ireland's Darren Clarke reacts on the 18th green after winning the 2011 Open Golf Championship at Royal St George's golf course, Sandwich

Hole 1
Par 3, 206 yards

The only course on the Open rota to start with a short hole. Seven bunkers, four left and three right, lie in wait, while trees down the left have been cleared to make the hole more open to wind. Lanny Wadkins aced it in 1988

Hole 2
Par 4, 481 yards

With a new tee the hole plays 43 yards longer and the carry over the cluster of bunkers on the right is now 265 yards. Small dunes have been added left of the fairway to toughen the drive even more

Hole 3
Par 4, 477 yards

20 yards longer and two bunkers down the right have been moved to make driving a stiffer test. More new dunes in the left rough have again tightened things up

Hole 4
Par 4, 391 yards

Turning back towards the clubhouse for this dogleg left, where a bunker has been added on the right. The green entrance has been altered to allow for some harder pin placings at the front

CARD						Front nine		
Hole	Yards	Par	Hole	Yards	Par			
1	206	3	6	494	4			
2	481	4	7	589	5			
3	477	4	8	417	4			
4	391	4	9	164	3			
5	218	3	OUT	3,437	34			

Source: royallytham.org

Back nine					
Hole	Yards	Par	Hole	Yards	Par
10	385	4	15	464	4
11	601	5	16	358	4
12	196	3	17	467	4
13	357	4	18	410	4
14	443	4	IN	3,681	36

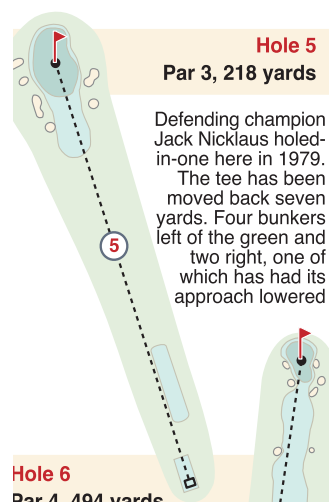
Total: Par 70, 7,118 yards

Recent Open Championship winners at Royal Lytham & St Annes

Year	Player	Round >	1	2	3	4	Total
2001	David DUVAL	USA	69	73	65	67	274 (-10)
1996	Tom LEHMAN	USA	67	67	64	73	271 (-13)
1988	Seve BALLESTEROS	Spain	67	71	70	65	273 (-11)
1979	Seve BALLESTEROS	Spain	73	65	75	70	283 (-1)

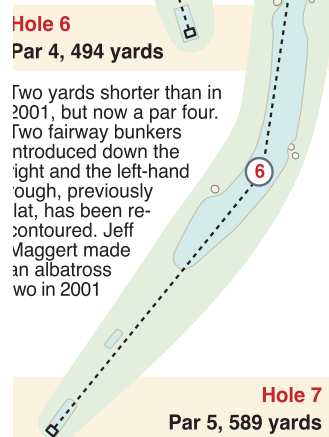
GORDON SIMPSON'S LOCAL GOLF APPEARS IN THE ECHO EVERY TUESDAY

BRITISH OPEN GOLF 2012 PREVIEW



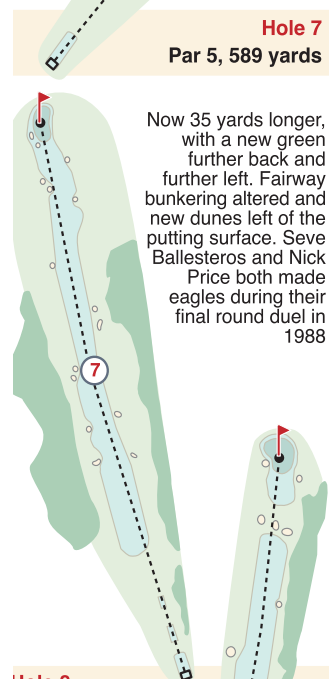
Hole 5
Par 3, 218 yards

Defending champion Jack Nicklaus holed-in-one here in 1979. The tee has been moved back seven yards. Four bunkers left of the green and two right, one of which has had its approach lowered



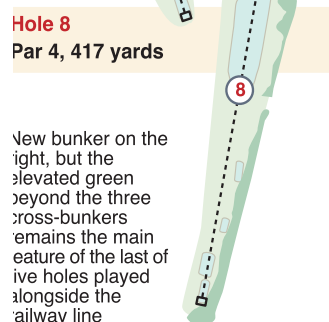
Hole 6
Par 4, 494 yards

Two yards shorter than in 2001, but now a par four. Two fairway bunkers introduced down the right and the left-hand rough, previously flat, has been re-contoured. Jeff Moggert made an albatross wo in 2001



Hole 7
Par 5, 589 yards

Now 35 yards longer, with a new green further back and further left. Fairway bunkering altered and new dunes left of the putting surface. Seve Ballesteros and Nick Price both made eagles during their final round duel in 1988



Hole 8
Par 4, 417 yards

New bunker on the right, but the elevated green beyond the three cross-bunkers remains the main feature of the last of five holes played alongside the railway line



Hole 9
Par 3, 164 yards

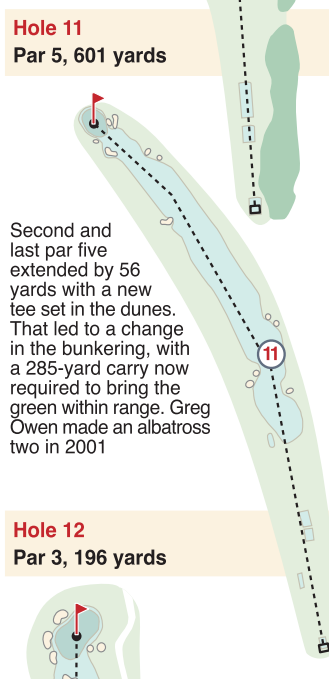
Easily the shortest of the par threes, but a beauty with nine bunkers covering the front, left and right and rough behind

Paul McGinley led the 1996 Open after a hole-in-one here in his second round to complete a front nine 29



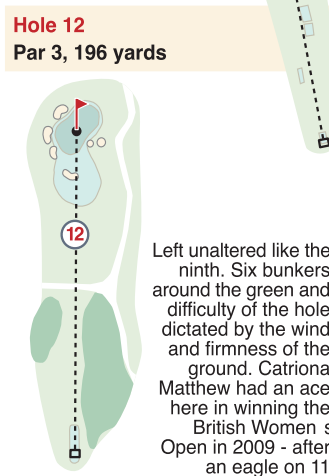
Hole 10
Par 4, 385 yards

The start of the inward half has been lengthened considerably. Here there are an added 52 yards and with a new bunker either side of the fairway the drive is much more testing



Hole 11
Par 5, 601 yards

Second and last par five extended by 56 yards with a new tee set in the dunes. That led to a change in the bunkering, with a 285-yard carry now required to bring the green within range. Greg Owen made an albatross two in 2001



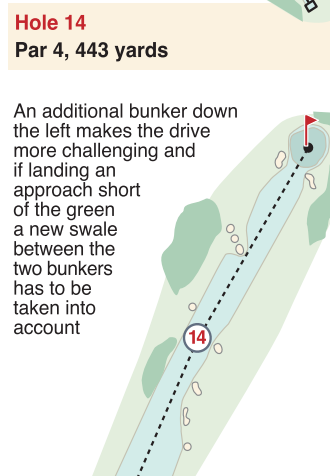
Hole 12
Par 3, 196 yards

Left unaltered like the ninth. Six bunkers around the green and difficulty of the hole dictated by the wind and firmness of the ground. Catriona Matthew had an ace here in winning the British Women's Open in 2009 - after an eagle on 11



Hole 13
Par 4, 357 yards

13 yards longer with a new back tee. Dogleg right with five bunkers on the inside of the angle, two more that narrow the fairway further down and three more on each side of the narrow green



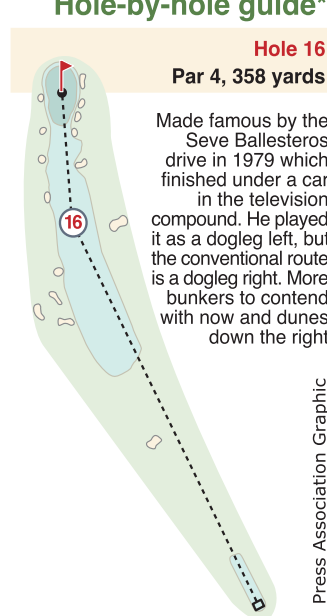
Hole 14
Par 4, 443 yards

An additional bunker down the left makes the drive more challenging and if landing an approach short of the green a new swale between the two bunkers has to be taken into account



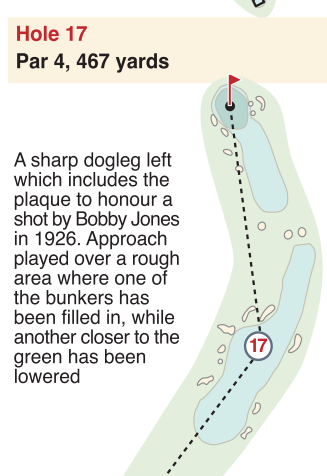
Hole 15
Par 4, 464 yards

A strong par four which is a slight dogleg right around three bunkers. Three more dominate the approach to the green. Becomes a real brute when played into a stiff wind



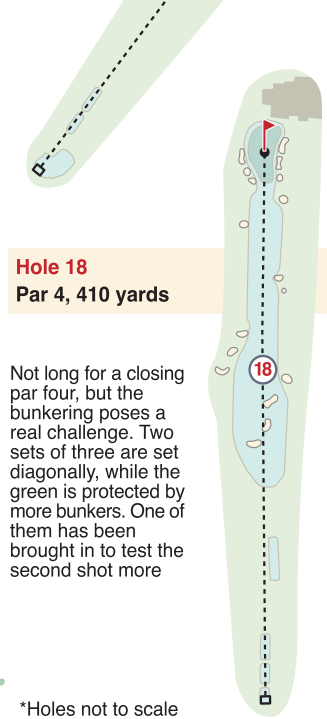
Hole 16
Par 4, 358 yards

Made famous by the Seve Ballesteros drive in 1979 which finished under a car in the television compound. He played it as a dogleg left, but the conventional route is a dogleg right. More bunkers to contend with now and dunes down the right



Hole 17
Par 4, 467 yards

A sharp dogleg left which includes the plaque to honour a shot by Bobby Jones in 1926. Approach played over a rough area where one of the bunkers has been filled in, while another closer to the green has been lowered



Hole 18
Par 4, 410 yards

Not long for a closing par four, but the bunkering poses a real challenge. Two sets of three are set diagonally, while the green is protected by more bunkers. One of them has been brought in to test the second shot more

Hole-by-hole guide*

Press Association Graphic

From facing page

KIERAN O'MALLEY - born 12/05/1988, Halifax.

ANDY PINK - born 25/01/1983, Kansas City.

BEN PIPES - born 21/10/1986, Beverley.

MARK PLOTYCZER - born 19/12/1987, Copacabana.

Women:

LYNNE BEATTIE - born 23/12/1985, East Renfrewshire.

MARIA BERTELLI - born 06/10/1977, Droylsden.

RACHEL BRAGG - born 11/12/1984, Bromsgrove.

GRACE CARTER - born 10/08/1989, Nottingham.

RACHEL LAYBOURNE - born 19/05/1982, Sheffield.

SAVANAH LEAF - born 04/11/1983, London.

CIARA MICHEL - born 02/07/1985, Taunton.

JOANNE MORGAN - born 07/10/1983, Edinburgh.

LIZZIE REID - born 23/01/1989, London.

JANINE SANDELL - born 07/12/1985, Anerley.

JENNIFER TAYLOR - born 16/08/1980, Bolton.

LUCY WICKS - born 20/03/1982, Swindon.

WEIGHTLIFTING

Men:

GARETH EVANS - born 18/04/86, Dundee. Lives: Leeds.

PETER KIRKBRIDE - born 19/12/87, Irvine, North Ayrshire. Lives: Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire.

JACK OLIVER - born 04/01/91, Sidcup. Lives: Leeds.

Women:

NATASHA PERDUE - born 27/07/75, Swansea. Lives: Swansea.

ZOE SMITH - born 26/04/94, Greenwich, London. Lives: Abbey Wood, London.

WRESTLING-FREESTYLE

OLGA BUTKEVYCH - born 03/01/1986, Zaporozhye, Ukraine. Lives: Manchester.

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TORCH SPECIAL: 12-page Olympic torch pullout is in Monday's Southern Daily Echo.

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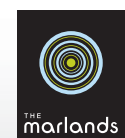


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Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

ROYALS 2012 fixtures

APRIL

12-15 Gloucestershire, home, LVCC – Gloucs 314 (D Balcombe 8-71) & 174 (D Balcombe 3-48, H Riazuddin 3-51), Hampshire 199 (S Katich 74) & 256 (M Bates 87, C Wood 65). **Hampshire lost by 33 runs.**

19-22 Glamorgan, SWALEC, LVCC – Glamorgan 103-9 dec (D Balcombe 5-33) & 256 (H Riazuddin 5-61), Hampshire 156 (L Dawson 32) & 204-8 (S Ervine 75, J Vince 28). **Hampshire won by 2 wickets.**

26-29 Leicestershire, h, LVCC – Leics 234 (L Dawson 5-29), Hampshire 217-4 (M Carberry 84no, S Katich 54, S Ervine 41no). **Drawn**

MAY

2-5 Northants, Northampton, LVCC Northants 218 (C Wood 4-52) & 232-9 (C Wood 3-58, D Balcombe 3-70), Hampshire 154 (J Vince 46no) & 179 (M Carberry 61). **Hampshire lost by 117 runs.**

7 Glamorgan, h, CB40 Glamorgan 173-7 (K Ali 3-44), Hampshire 151-2 (J Vince 83, M Carberry 60). **Hampshire won on DL Method.**

9-12 Derbyshire, h, LVCC Hampshire 352-8 dec (J Adams 122, B Shafayat 93), Derbyshire 403-9 dec (K Ali 3-60, J Tomlinson 3-101). **Drawn**

16-19 Yorkshire, Headingley, LVCC Hampshire 427 (S Katich 196, M Bates 103, S Ervine 44) & 191-2 dec (S Katich 61no, M Carberry 61no, J Adams 49), Yorkshire 399-9 dec (L Dawson 3-61). **Drawn**

20 Scotland, Uddingston, CB40 Hampshire 220 (M Carberry 76), Scotland 131 (K Ali 2-17, D Briggs 2-31). **Hampshire won by 89 runs.**

23-26 Glamorgan, h, LVCC Hampshire 316 (S Ervine 109, J Adams 42, M Bates 41) & 273 (J Adams 72, J Vince 48), Glamorgan 327 (D Balcombe 4-91) & 231 (K Ali 3-42, J Tomlinson 3-45). **Hampshire won by 31 runs.**

27 Somerset, Taunton, CB40 Somerset 212-9, Hampshire 216-1 (M Carberry 103no, J Adams 56, J Vince 44no). **Hampshire won by 9 wickets.**

31 Nottinghamshire (F), h, CB40 Notts 277-4, Hampshire 265 (S Ervine 68, M Carberry 54, J Adams 51, D Mascarenhas 48). **Hampshire lost by 12 runs.**

JUNE

3 Surrey, KIA Oval, CB40 Surrey 76-1, match abandoned.

4 Scotland, h, CB40 Scotland 230-9 (D Briggs 3-35), Hampshire 234-4 (M Carberry 148no). **Hampshire won by 6 wickets.**

6-9 Kent, Tunbridge Wells, LVCC Hampshire 303-8 (L Dawson 134no, S Katich 54), Kent 220-6. **Drawn**

14 Sussex, Hove, FLT20 Abandoned, no result

19 Middlesex (F), h, FLT20 Hampshire 157-6 (J Vince 64no), Middlesex 161-4. Hampshire lost by 6 wks.

Continued on facing page ...
22 Kent, h, FLT20

I've NEVER seen anyone like Glenn!

Simon Walter

simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk

CRICKET REPORTER

YOU would think he has seen everything during his career, but Neil McKenzie admits he has never come across a batsman like Glenn Maxwell before.

The Hampshire duo have experienced contrasting fortunes with the bat in this year's Friends Life t20.

While McKenzie has struggled, Maxwell has hit Hampshire's fastest individual t20 half-centuries since the format began nine years ago.

The Australian's 22-ball fifty against Kent at Canterbury secured Hampshire their first t20 win of the season.

And he went one better against Essex under the Chelmsford floodlights, getting to 50 from 21 balls – including 30 in one over against slow left armer Tim Phillips.

He has scored his 178 runs at 59.3 and his 13 sixes have helped him to a strike rate of 178 (he has faced exactly 100 balls) that is only bettered by Matt Prior among the competition's leading run scorers.

McKenzie, 36, said: "I've never played with anyone who swings harder at the ball – there'll be back issues coming up for him in the next couple of years!"

"He's one of those guys where it's all or nothing. I played golf with him the other day and he swings just as hard with his clubs!"

"He took out this three-wood and bombed it around. He'll get an eagle on one hole then hit himself into the trees!"

"There's no safe golf or golf finesse with him and that's how he approaches his cricket."

McKenzie had never heard of Maxwell before this season.

"I looked him up when Chalks said he was a possibility," said McKenzie. "Dimi [Mascarenhas] had reports saying he would win us three or four games out of ten and he's lived up to that."

"He's done really well. He's young, confident and explosive and has turned games on their head. Not too many players would have had the confidence to hit James Tredwell like he did during that Kent game or Tim Phillips at Essex last week."

Maxwell's own off-spin has also proved a useful asset (of



GLENN MAXWELL

Glenn is one of those guys where it's all or nothing. He swings just as hard playing golf!

Hampshire's bowlers only Mascarenhas and Liam Dawson have a better economy rate than his 7.30).

"He reminds me of [South Africa t20 all-rounder] Roelof van der Merwe, he a bulldog who's not your classic tweaker," McKenzie continued.

"He's a fighter, he dives for everything. There are no 'what-ifs'."

As well as being a big success on the field, Maxwell has also been a welcome addition off the field.

"The Hampshire guys make everyone feel at home, it's not a hard dressing room to get along with as long as you can have the mickey taken out of you," smiles McKenzie.

"He laughs at himself and he's not afraid to give it a back."

"That's what you need, a bit of

team banter.

"He feels a part of the cause."

McKenzie is remaining with Hampshire as cover for the injured Michael Carberry.

He and Maxwell will be reunited when Hampshire return to t20 action on Wednesday, July 25 – for their Trent Bridge quarter-final against a Notts side including ex-Royal Michael Lumb.

LOCAL CRICKET APPEARS ON PAGES 36/37

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



'Guinness' a massive loss to us – Neil

HAMPSHIRE batsman Neil McKenzie believes the retirement of Mark 'Guinness' Boucher is a massive loss to South Africa ahead of the forthcoming Test series against England.

McKenzie played most of his 58 Tests alongside Boucher, who he has known since they played together for South Africa's Under-19 side.

The wicketkeeper-batsman suffered a lacerated eyeball when an Imran Tahir googly deflected off a bail during South Africa's opening tour match against Somerset at Taunton on Monday.

Thami Tsolekile, McKenzie's Highveld Lions teammate, has been called up as a replacement ahead of the first Test at The Oval on Thursday.

But McKenzie admits Boucher's gloves will be very difficult to fill.

"I chatted to Mark via text the other day, he's done proper damage and needs one or two more ops," he said.

"He's seeing another specialist and hopefully he can get all of his vision back. He's a good friend of mine and I'm thinking of him at this time.

"They would have known when he went down for more than a few seconds that it was bad because he's not one to over-dramatise injuries.

"These things happen for a reason, they're a test, but I'm thinking of him and hopefully he can get back playing first-class cricket.

"This was going to be his last tour so his big focus was on this Test series but he wants to play at least two more years for the Cape Cobras.

"He was really looking forward to playing in a more relaxed atmosphere with less travelling and let's hope he can still do that.

"I hope to see him continue to play for at least another couple of years."

With the injury threatening his vision, Boucher announced his retirement from international cricket on Tuesday.

"It was a freak accident," said

Simon Walter

simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk

CRICKET REPORTER



McKenzie. "Mark's been a big guy for wearing sunglasses which would have saved him, but it was probably overcast."

"He's been quite lucky with injuries till now. He's cut his finger with a biltong knife and hurt his toe from a yorker but that's all I can remember. He's been a stalwart."

Boucher played the first of his 147 Tests back in 1997, a few years after South Africa's return to international competition, post-apartheid. His selection ahead of Nic Pothas turned out to be Hampshire's gain as well as his country's.

"He's shown he's a serious player by playing for a top nation for over a decade," continued McKenzie.

"They call him 'Guinness' because he's been involved in so many records!

"When you look at footage of Allan Donald taking his 300th Test wicket it was Boucher behind the stumps.

"And there he is catching when you see a documentary of Makhaya Ntini.

"South Africa have not just lost a keeper-batter, they've lost a powerhouse. You just knew when the chips were down at nothing for five that he was the best man to pull you out of the rubbish.

"We had some good partnerships, he was always positive and taking it to the opposition.

"He's a huge part of South Africa's make up so he's a big loss but let's hope he can get his sight back and his health."

So does Boucher's absence swing the battle for the Basil D'Oliveira Trophy in England's favour?

"It was very finely balanced in terms of the personnel, the only difference being the leg spinner [Tahir] to the offie [Graeme Swann]," McKenzie continued.

"Although he's a seriously good, natural talent, Thami's got a long way to go to be as good as Boucher.

"His batting has really come on since he's moved to the Lions but AB [De Villiers] might keep so they can pick JP Duminy as an extra batting and off-spin option."

ROYALS 2012 fixtures

Kent 151-5, Hampshire 148-6.
Hampshire lost by 3 runs.

24 Kent, Canterbury, FLt20
Kent 135-6, Hampshire 138-4 (G Maxwell 66no). Hampshire won by 6 wickets.

27 Middlesex, Richmond, FLt20
Middlesex 156-2, Hampshire 160-6 (S Ervine 75no, S Katich 40). Hampshire won by 4 wkts.

29 Essex, Chelmsford, FLt20
Essex 176-4, Hampshire 177-4 (G Maxwell 60no, S Katich 42no). Hampshire won by 6 wickets.

30 Surrey, h, FLt20
Surrey 94-6, Hampshire 95-3 (J Vince 25). Hampshire won by 7 wickets.

JULY

2 Surrey, Kia Oval, FLt20
Surrey 84-4 (10 overs), Hampshire 63-0 (J Adams 28no, J Vince 24no). Hampshire won by 19 runs (D/L Method)

6 Sussex (F), h, FLt20
Sussex 203-5, abandoned, rain.

8 Essex (F), h, FLt20
Abandoned, rain, no result

11-14 Yorkshire, h, LVCC
15 Durham, h, CB40
17 Notts (F), Trent Bridge, CB40
19-22 Essex, Chelmsford, LVCC
24/25 FLt20 quarter-finals
27-30 Kent, h, LVCC

AUGUST

6-9 Gloucestershire, Bristol, LVCC
10 Glamorgan (F), SWALEC, CB40
14 Somerset (F), h, CB40
15-18 Northamptonshire, h, LVCC
19 Surrey, h, CB40
21-24 Leics, Grace Road, LVCC
24/25 FLt20 semi-finals/finals
27 Durham, Chester-le-Street, CB40

SEPTEMBER

4-7 Essex, h, LVCC
11-14 Derbyshire, Derby, LVCC
15 CB40 final, Lords.

KEY: LVCC (LV County Championship division two), CB40 (Clydesdale Bank40), FLt20 (Friends Life t20), F (floodlit)

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Local Cricket Spotlight

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ECB Under-15 County

Championships: Hampshire v Gloucestershire (Sarisbury Athletic, 11.30).

THE Southern Electric twenty20 Cup has sunk deeper into chaos with the predictable cancellation of both of tomorrow's quarter-finals ties at Alton and Bashley (Rydal).

Both grounds have been waterlogged for some time now, leaving an increasingly stressed Competitions Manager with problems galore.

The Ageas Bowl final was originally scheduled to be next Thursday evening but the Premier League immediately realised that wouldn't happen and re-arranged for Thursday August 2.

With the quarter-finals still to be finished – only Totton & Eling have so far made it through to the semi's – August 2 now won't be on the calendar either!

"We plan to discuss various options with the Ageas Bowl, who have been very helpful, but all the time it keeps raining and our ties our postponed, there is not much we can do," said SPL chairman Paul Thompson.

The Premier League's problems are compounded by the SPL being nominated to host the Area Finals on Sunday August 5 – Hursley

Parks' charges in confident mood

HAMPSHIRE Under-17s head to the South-West Rivera tomorrow in a confident frame of mind after beginning their ECB County Championship programme on a positive note with a first innings win over Worcestershire at May's Bounty.

It was an important result for Bobby Parks' young charges as Worcestershire were the only side to beat Hampshire last season.

Now Devon YCs loom large on the horizon – Hampshire

opening their delayed defence of the ECB 50-over County Cup against the west country side at Brixham on Monday (11am), before facing Devon again in a two-day match at Torquay on Tuesday.

Hampshire's planned 50-over ECB Cup start had to be put on hold when a flooded Ageas Bowl Nursery Ground surface led to last Tuesday's match with Worcester being called off.

But play got away on time at Basingstoke, with Bournemouth's Ryan Scott, pic-

tured right, starring as Hampshire notched a win.

Highly promising Lancing College leg-spinner Mason Crane, recommended to Hampshire by Raj Maru, returned impressive figures of 4-26 as Worcestershire were dismissed for 121 having been put in on a damp May's Bounty surface.

Hampshire slipped to 65-4 in reply, but Scott hit 92 and shared a century fifth-wicket stand with skipper Michael Porter (65) as they recovered to

post 251-8 declared.

The 130-run lead gave Hampshire the first innings 'win' points, but their prospects of going on to record an outright victory were thwarted when heavy rain led to play being abandoned with Worcestershire 210-5 in their second knock.

Alex Milton (97 not out) and Connor Smith (61) put on 145 for the fifth wicket after Worcestershire were again struggling at 53-4 in their second innings.



Park's ground at The Quarter's being the venue.

By some means – and it may come to pulling a name out of a hat – the SPL will have to find a club to play in the national competition, which Bournemouth won under the gaze of the Sky Sports television cameras three years ago.

"It's a nightmare scenario – one totally out of our hands," Thompson added.

The Premier League plans to meet over the weekend to plot a potential route forward ... if there is one!

● Havant and South Wilts face quarter-final away-days if they win tomorrow's rain delayed ECB Kingfisher Beer Cup fifth round ties.

If Havant beat Teddington, they will be away to either Brentwood or ECB Birmingham & District Premier League club Barnet Green.

The prize for a South Wilts victory over Bridgwater at Bemerton (1pm) will be a trip to either Kent or Essex, where Tunbridge Wells or Wanstead lie in wait.

The local Southern Electric Premier League pair weren't alone in losing their fifth-round tie to the weather.

"Only one tie across the entire county was played," confirmed ECB competitions manager Aaron

Campbell, who has adopted a flexible approach to the problems virtually all clubs are facing.

"Conditions are so bad in some parts of the UK that I'm giving clubs another week's latitude, so if this Sunday is called off, then they can re-arrange on July 22.

"But that really is the cut-off point, as I need to have the quarter-finals set in place to be played on July 29."



Tom's a chart topper

TICHBORNE Park all-rounder Tom Allam has celebrated his Southern Electric Premier League 'Cricketer of the Month' award by edging clear in the Division 3 wicket taking charts.

Allam, pictured, has 22 victims to his name – the highest in any of the three divisions – and is two wickets clear of Calmore's Paul Proudley at the halfway stage of the season.

LEADING INDIVIDUAL PERFORMERS

ECB Premier Division –

Batting: Charlie Esson (St Cross Symondians) 287, David Taylor (Totton & Eling) 287, Oli Green (Academy) 277, Ali Jaffer (Lymington) 243, James Hayward (South Wilts) 237, James Taylor (Totton & Eling) 235, Neil Thurgood (Bashley) 233, Scott Myers (Alton) 223, George Adair (St Cross

Symondians) 220.

Bowling: Glenn Maxwell (South Wilts) 19, Matt Perry-Lewis (St Cross Symondians) 18, Richard Hindley (18), Owen Alsop (South Wilts) 17, Richard Logan (St Cross Symondians) 17, Jez Ord (Havant) 16, Matt Metcalfe (Bournemouth) 16.

Catches: Richard Hindley 7, Rob Gibson (Academy) 7, Pete Hopson (Havant) 5.

Wicketkeeping: Jez Bulled (Havant) 13, Tom Morton (South Wilts) 13, Nigel Bungay (Totton & Eling) 10, Lewis McManus (Academy) 10.

Division 2 – batting: Derek Kenway (Burridge) 341, Jordan Silk (Burridge) 316, Ben Thane (Hook & Newnham Basics) 288, Tristen McDonald (Rowledge) 260, Jonty Hadfield (Andover) 247, Rob Atkins (Hambledon) 242, Alex Styles (Burridge) 219, Ryan Beck (New Milton) 212.

Bowling: Dan Hewitt (Hambledon) 18, Kevin Poulter (Hook) 16, Luke Graham (Andover) 16, Dan Loader (NM) 16, Paul Ancell (Burridge) 15.

Catches: Jonty Hadfield

(Andover) 6, Chris Jolley (Hartley Wintney) 6, Matt Love (Hook) 6, Scott Dawes (Paultons) 6.

Wicketkeeping: Ross Hunter (Hook) 9, Nick Scutt (Hambledon) 9, Ian Metcalfe (Rowledge) 8, Jamie Rood (Burridge) 8.

Division 3 – batting: Peter Woodland (Liphook) 352, Damian Carson (US) 348, Richard Partington (Sparsholt) 346, David Taylor (Totton II) 330, Paul Marks (Fawley) 279, Graham Noble (Langley Manor) 252, Ali Cheyne (LM) 249, Mark Thorne (Fair Oak) 246, Craig Renders (LM) 240.

Bowling: Tom Allam (Tichborne Park) 22, Paul Proudley (Calmore Sports) 20, Ed Berry (TP) 19, Chris Blake (Trojans) 17, Owamir Afzal (Fawley) 16, Dylan Augustus (Totton II) 16, Nick Wheeler (Hursley Park) 16, Joe Lovett (Fair Oak) 16, Cody Henderson (US) 16, Mike West (Calmore Sports) 15, Hakim Peruzi (Totton II) 15.

Catches: Ed Primmer (TP) 12, Ed Berry (TP) 8.

Wicketkeeping: Nigel le Bas (Trojans) 11, Darren Vann (Calmore Sports) 10, Le Carroll (US) 9, Dave Lyons (TP) 9.

SEPL PREVIEWS APPEAR EVERY FRIDAY IN THE DAILY ECHO

Local Cricket Spotlight

WATER TORTURE

SPECIAL REPORT

By Mike Vimpany

echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

THE country's wettest summer in history has plunged recreational cricket even deeper into financial turmoil.

The wet start to the season, which led to widespread postponements in early May, put most clubs in trouble before a ball was barely bowled in anger.

Now the situation has become worse, with the constant bad weather decimating more than one-third of the local league programme.

This week's heavy rain, which accompanied thunder and lightning, has left grounds waterlogged once again.

Locally, the ECB Southern Electric Premier and Hampshire Leagues are bracing themselves for a second consecutive mass weekend washout – and their member clubs being plunged deeper into the financial mire.

No cricket means no match fees coming in, no tea money, no bar takings.

INSURANCE

"But we still have large bills to pay," says Lymington treasurer Tony Wharton, one of numerous unpaid officials across the region wrestling with the problem of trying to make ends meet.

"Our income is down on last year by approximately 30 per cent but just because the cricket gets called off, that doesn't mean we can forego huge expenditure items like insurance premiums, which as we've pointed out before are far higher for sports clubs than, say, a policy for your own home.

"Buying cricket balls is another sizeable outlay, in addition to paying sizeable affiliation fees.

"Not to mention the £4,000 rent we have to pay each summer to the Lymington Town Council for using the Sports Ground and the third team pitch at Woodside.

"It is all money that has to be found and we're doing all we can by arranging social events at the club, but if people aren't playing cricket you lose touch and organising things is doubly difficult."

Southern Electric Premier League rivals Bashley (Rydal), whose ground has been virtually waterlogged for the past month, reckon they are over £5,000 down on gross income.

"We've had precious little cricket at the BCG in recent weeks, so our income has taken a terrible hit," points out chairman John Neal.

"We've spent a lot of money

Wettest summer on record leaves clubs in financial mire



enhancing our off-field facilities too."

Playing-wise, Bashley are among the bigger clubs in the area.

"We run five Saturday sides – one in the Premier League and four others in the Hampshire League – and that's a very expensive operation.

"So, when we don't play, that equates to a lot of lost income in terms of match fees and money going across the bar," Neal added.

"Fortunately, we are a cricket club with players who treat the BCG as a place to come back to after matches and spend Saturday evenings there.

"A lot of clubs aren't like that."

In the north of the county, Hook & Newnham Basics' ground at the King George V Field is also waterlogged – with no cricket likely to

take place there in the foreseeable future.

"Take a few steps on to our outfield and water comes up over your shoes," said frustrated Hook cricket manager Keith Lovelock.

£7,000 DOWN

"We've really copped it badly and I honestly reckon we're as much as £7,000 down on last year in terms of money coming into the club.

"We'd expect to gross about £10,000 by the start of July, but the last set of figures we produced that figure was only £3,000."

The bad weather has not only hit weekend league cricket – but the future of every club: the junior sections.

in a game they can't play because it is too wet."

The appalling weather and the absence of cricket has left players and groundsmen frustrated – but club treasurers with a massive problem: just how to pay the bills?

Premier League treasurer Adrian Poole points out that, on average, adult members pay between £8 and £10 for a Saturday afternoon game of cricket – let's say £100 per team – and put money over the bar afterwards.

"You've got to remember also that the majority of grounds – and bars – are only open during the summer and are shut for the other seven months of the year, so every match that is cancelled really hurts.

"We mustn't forget either there is rent to be paid and, where clubs own and maintain their own grounds, equipment and machinery has to be purchased and money spent on the upkeep of clubhouses, pavilions and squares.

WORRYING SCENARIO

"For an amateur, recreational sport, which effectively lives from hand to mouth, it continues to be a very worrying scenario indeed," he said.

Unlike winter sports like hockey, rugby and soccer where postponed league matches are simply rearranged later in the season, there is no such contingency plan for cricket.

"Once a fixture is lost, that is it. The league season only lasts 17 or 18 weeks – effectively four months – so there is no room to replay anything – and recoup lost income," Mr Poole added.

The bad weather has not only hit league cricket, but also affected and delayed numerous twenty20 knock-out competitions.

The Premier Leagues Southern Electric t20, which is climaxed by a floodlight Ageas Bowl final, is currently marooned at the quarter-final stage, with little of hope of two finalists emerging by August 2, when the main event is due to take place.

Similarly, the midweek evening competitions run in Basingstoke, the New Forest and Winchester are way behind schedule, with scant prospect of any ties being played in the coming week.

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Non-league Football



Pre-season friendlies

Saturday, July 14: Markus Liebherr Memorial at St Mary's – Saints, Arsenal and Anderlecht, AFC Stoneham v Eastleigh Res (3.00), Alton Town v Aldershot Town, Bashley v Blackfield & Langley (3.00), Braishfield XI v Capital (Stoneham Park, 3.00), Cowes Sports v GE Hamble XI, Dorchester Town v Christchurch (3.00), Havant & Waterlooville v Portsmouth (3.00), Lyndhurst v East Boldre (4.00), QK Southampton v Fareham Town (3.00), Parley Sports v New Milton Town (3.00), Ringwood v GE Hamble XI, Stockbridge v Romsey Town, Swanage v Poole Town (3.00), US Portsmouth v AFC Totton (double fixture, 12.30 and 2.30), Winchester City v Gosport Borough (3pm).

Tuesday, July 17: Blackfield & Langley v AFC Stoneham, Hordean v Gosport Borough (7.30), Frome Town v Salisbury City (7.45), Romsey Town v Sholing XI (7.45), Poole Town v Yeovil Town (7.45), Winchester Castle v Alesford Town (6.30), Winchester City v SAINTS U21s.

Wednesday, July 18: Downton v Amesbury New Milton Town v AFC Bournemouth (7.45), Totton & Eling v Eastleigh Res (at West Wellow, 6.30).

Thursday, July 19: Christchurch v Sholing (7.45), Poole Town v Eastleigh (7.45), Sporting BW v Romsey Town (6.30), Whitchurch Utd v Thatcham Town (Dango Tournament at Andover New Street).

Friday, July 20: Hamworthy Utd v Sherborne, Hordean v Eastleigh Res (7.30).

Saturday, July 21: AFC Portchester v Poole Town (3.00), AFC Totton v Farnborough (3.00), Alton Town v Wantage (3.00), Arlesey Town v Salisbury City (3.00), Basingstoke Town v Reading XI (3.00), Blackfield & Langley v East Preston (double header, kick-offs to be advised), Braishfield XI v Horton Heath (Stoneham Park, 3.00), Brockenhurst v Wembley (3.00), Chichester City v GE Hamble, Evian Thonon Gaillard v SAINTS, (Stade Joseph-Moynat, 7.00 local), Fleet Town v Bashley (3.00), Gillingham Town v Alesford Town, Hamworthy Utd v Badshot Lea, Lyndhurst v Sway (4.00), New Milton Town v Hamworthy Rec (3.00), Poole Town v Christchurch (3.00), QK Southampton v Fawley AFC, Shepton Mallet v Totton & Eling, Sutton United v Eastleigh (3pm).

Tuesday, July 24: AFC Portchester v Gosport Borough, Alton Town v Bracknell, Bashley v Christchurch (7.45), Brackley Town v Salisbury City (7.45), Brockenhurst v Lymington Town, Colden Common v Whitchurch Utd, Eastleigh v Crewe Alexandra (7.45), GE Hamble v Sholing (7.45), Holt Utd v New Milton Town (6.45), Pagham v Fareham Town (7.45), Ringwood Town v Romsey Town, Wantage Town v Alesford Town (7.45), Winchester City v Basingstoke Town (7.45).

Wednesday, July 25: Blackfield & Langley v Eastleigh Res (7.45).

Thursday, July 26: Christchurch v Chichester City (7.45), Colden Common v Romsey Town (6.30).

Friday, July 27: AFC Totton v Basingstoke Town (7.45), Bemerton HH v Frome Town, Fawley AFC v Tadley Calveia, GE Hamble v Gosport Borough XI, Poole Town v AFC Bournemouth (7.45).

Saturday, July 28: Blackfield & Langley v Sholing XI (3.00), Braishfield XI v West Totton (Stoneham Park, 3.00), Caine Town v Fareham Town (3.00), Chichester City v Alesford Town (3.00), Fareham Town v Camberley Town (3.00), Hamworthy Utd v Hanwell Town, Lyndhurst v Park Sports (4.00), New Milton Town v Paulton Rovers (2.30), Poole Borough v Totton & Eling, North Leigh v Eastleigh (3.00), SAINTS v Ajax (3.00), Salisbury City v Reading (3.00), Whitchurch Utd v Abingdon, Winchester City v AFC Bournemouth (3.00).

Monday, July 30: AFC Portchester v Pagham, Downton v Eastleigh Res (7.45), Fawley AFC v Brockenhurst.

Tuesday, July 31: Basingstoke Town v AFC Bournemouth (7.45), Braishfield XI v FC Wellington (Stoneham Park, 7.00), Downton v Whitchurch Utd, GE Hamble v Colden Common, Poole Town v Salisbury City (7.45), Sholing v Eastleigh (7.45).

Wednesday, August 1: Christchurch v Wimborne (7.45), Havant & Waterlooville v AFC Bournemouth (7.45).

Friday, August 3: Fleet Town v Eastleigh Res (7.45), Salisbury City v Swindon Town (7.45).

Saturday, August 4: Basingstoke Town v Brentford (3.00), Braishfield v Hythe Aztecs (Stoneham Park, 3.00), Liphook Utd v Eastleigh Res (4.00), Lyndhurst v Fawley AFC Res (4.00), SAINTS v Wolves (3.00), Wimborne Town v AFC Totton (3.00), Winchester City v Eastleigh (3.00).

Tuesday, August 7: AFC Totton v Salisbury City (7.30), Bristol City v SAINTS (7.45), Eastleigh v Oxford Utd (7.45), Havant & Waterlooville v Gosport Borough (7.45), Parley Sports v Poole Town (7.00).

Thursday, August 9: Braishfield v Comrades (Stoneham Park, 7.00).

Saturday, August 11: Chippenham Town v Basingstoke Town (3.00), Bashley v Poole Town (3.00), Braishfield Res v Bitterne Park Hotel (Stoneham Park, 3.00), Eastleigh v Reading XI (3.00), Fleet Town v AFC Totton (3.00), Gosport Borough v Sholing (3.00), Lyndhurst v Bush Hill (4.00), SAINTS v Udinese (12.00), Salisbury City v Portsmouth (3.00), Winchester City v Andover Lions (3.00).

Wednesday, August 15: GE Hamble Res v Eastleigh Res (7.30).

Thursday, August 16: Braishfield Res v BTC Southampton (at Stoneham Park).

Saturday, August 18: Broughton v Braishfield (Village Rec, 3.00) Lyndhurst v East Cowes Vics (3.00).

Tuesday, August 21: Braishfield v Netley Central Sports (Stoneham Park, 6.30).

Thursday, August 23: Braishfield Res v Inmar (Stoneham Park, 6.30).

Saturday, August 25: Kings Somborne v Braishfield (Village Rec, 3.00).

Tuesday, August 28: Braishfield v Athletico Romsey (Stoneham Park, 6.30).

● To publicise pre-season friendlies email details to echosport@dailyecho.co.uk.

FRANNY TAKES UP QK REINS

QK SOUTHAMPTON have replaced former manager Patrick McManus with Franny Biddleston who spent last season running the reserve team.

McManus, who left earlier this summer for Southern League outfit Winchester City, led QK to second place in last season's Puma Engineering Hampshire Premier League. The club failed to take their place in the Sydenhams Wessex League after being refused entry because of ground grading reasons, writes **GARY PETERS**.

Club secretary Don Campbell said they had decided to promote from within after assessing their options. "Franny was running the second team and after looking at the options we decided he would be the best appointment. He knows the players," he said.

With Biddleston now in charge, Campbell is hopeful of another successful season. He said: "We want to be as successful as possible, which would mean doing well in the league and cups. However, anyone can beat anyone in this league on any given day."

With McManus leaving to take charge of Winchester's reserves there is a chance he could attempt to lure some of his former players with him.

Nevertheless, Campbell believes this is a normal part of the game. He said: "Whenever a manager leaves a club people move around. We will look to take players from other clubs and they'll do the same with ours."

"We're hoping to have a similar squad size – which is 32 players to operate two teams."

The grading reasons on which QK failed last season were, according to Campbell, "essentially the position and state of the changing rooms".

"The clarity and guidance on the grading compliance wasn't the best, but we continue to be ambitious," he said. "It is difficult to make the jump up the leagues and these are challenging times. We welcome any support which can help us get that extra kick and achieve promotion."

QK Southampton kick off the new season with a home match against Sporting Bishop's Waltham on August 11. They are also one of four teams from the PEHPL to have been chosen to compete in the Russell Cotes Cup – the others being Liphook, Locks Heath and AFC Stoneham.



False start for Ritchie

WINCHESTER City's first pre-season friendly ended prematurely at home to Havant & Waterlooville last Saturday.

Stuart Ritchie's Hawks held a one-goal half-time advantage thanks to Scott Jones's early strike, but the game was abandoned due to a waterlogged pitch.

Jones struck on the rebound after Steve Ramsey's effort had been pushed out by keeper Rory Anderson.

Havant took the opportunity to field new signing Ed Harris from Dover and also ran the rule over Canadian defender Patrick Wilson, who played for Cowes Sports last season and works for AFC Bournemouth's Community Sports Trust on the Isle of Wight.

On a sour note for Ritchie's men, former AFC Bournemouth goalkeeper Dan Thomas, pictured, suffered a fractured arm during the match. Thomas, who had a spell on loan at AFC Totton last season, is in a plaster cast and will miss the start of the season.

Winchester lost 3-0 to another Blue Square Bet South club, Salisbury City, on Wednesday with Dan Fitchett scoring twice for the Whites.

Fareham Town youth team trials
PLAYERS interested in turning out for Fareham Town in the Hampshire Youth League next season are invited to an open trial at Cams Alders on Wednesday (July 18, 6.30pm for 7pm start). Contact manager Jason Kennedy on 07733 240805 or email him at jkennedy66@ntlworld.com.

Hayling on look-out for coach
SYDENHAMS Premier club Hayling United are looking for a coach for the 2012/13 campaign.

The successful applicant will have full control of training sessions and assist on match days.

Contact reserve team manager Rich Bessey on 07583 567303.

Tough opener for Barker's men

THE new Sydenhams Premier campaign kicks off with an all-Southampton area affair between GE Hamble and Fawley AFC on Friday, August 3 (7.45pm).

Romsey Town have been handed arguably the toughest opener, away at last season's runners-up Bemerton Heath Harlequins the following day.

Town finished eighth under Wayne Mew last season, but new boss Danny Barker, pic-

tured, has some rebuilding to do ahead of the new campaign having lost the likes of Ryan and Jake Long and Ross Gregory to league rivals Blackfield & Langley, who start at Downton.

In a repeat of last season, Totton & Eling come face to face with Fareham Town in the opening game, but this time Kev Dawtry's men are on the home territory of Little

Testwood Farm. Promoted Division One champions Verwood Town get their first taste of the Premier high life at Alton Town, while fellow promotes AFC Portchester host Hamworthy United.



SYDENHAMS LEAGUE OPENING WEEK'S FIXTURES
Friday, August 3 – Premier Division: GE Hamble v Fawley AFC.
Saturday, August 4 – Premier

Division: AFC Portchester v Hamworthy Utd, Alton Town v Verwood Town, Bemerton HH v Romsey Town, Bournemouth Poppies v Lymington Town, Downton v Blackfield & Langley, Hordean v Christchurch, Moneyfields v New Milton Town, Newport IoW v Hayling Utd, Totton & Eling v Fareham Town.

Tuesday, August 7 – Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Alesford Town, Alton Town v Blackfield & Langley, Christchurch v Fawley AFC, Downton v GE Hamble.

Wednesday, August 8 – Premier Division: Totton & Eling v Newport IoW, Verwood Town v Hordean.

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